THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 448.] LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1854. [PRICE 6*d*.

LONDON AND LIVERPOOL TEMPERANCE LINE OF PACKETS TO AUSTRALIA; Landing Passengers on the Wharf.—These Ships are most complete in every requirement necessary for the comfort of passengers. The regulations secure health, order, comfort and enjoyment to all on board. The following will be despatched as follows:—

From LONDON, calling at Plymouth—"AUSTRALIA," 1,300 Tons burthen, for PORT PHILLIP and SYDNEY, from the East India Docks. To sail in May.

From LONDON, calling at Plymouth—"OUDERKIRK," for ADELAIDE and PORT PHILLIP. To sail 15th June.

From LIVERPOOL,—"ORACLE," 2,000 Tons burthen, for PORT PHILLIP.

These magnificent clippers need only to be seen to establish their claim to superiority, and are expected to make their passage in 80 days.

The chief cabins are as elegant and commodious as art and experience can make them. The intermediate cabins are large and well ventilated, and fitted to suit the convenience of families or single persons. Baths and washhouses are erected on deck.

A library of 300 volumes, free to all passengers, is put on board. A minister and surgeon accompany each vessel.

Terms, from £20 to 25 guineas. Chief cabin, 45 to 50 guineas.

For the "Handbook for Australian Emigrants" and full particulars, apply to Griffiths, Newcombe & Co., 27, Rood-lane, London, and 13, James-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, at Michaelmas, a MASTER and MISTRESS for CONGREGATIONAL DAY SCHOOLS (Boys and Girls) in Manchester. Salaries, £70 and £50. Some experience, and good references expected.—Apply to the Rev. G. B. BUBIER, 6, Acton-square, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, a MASTER and MISTRESS for the British School in Suffolk. They must produce their Certificates of having passed the required examinations, and Testimonials of their character and ability, and of their acquaintance with the theory and practice of singing.

Letters, stating the age of the Candidate, and the salary expected in each case, to be addressed to R. K., Post-office, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

WANTS EMPLOYMENT, as CLERK or CASHIER, or in some other situation of Trust, a Young Man, aged 29, a member of a Christian church, and who can have good recommendations from his late employers.—Address, F. P., Mr. Tweedie's, 337, Strand.

COLLEGIATE.—The Rev T. T. GOUGH continues to receive Gentlemen desirous of preparing for College or Matriculation in the University of London. Clipstone, near Northampton.

SCHOLASTIC.—A respectable Day School to be Sold for £25, in a large and increasing town. Population 13,000. This is a good opportunity for a young man of tact and talent. For particulars apply to Mr. BLACKLOCK, 117, Whitechapel, London.

HENRY SIMMONDS, Draper, Guildford, is in want of a Respectable Youth as an APPRENTICE. He would have an opportunity of gaining a thorough knowledge of the business, and be treated as one of the family.

BOARD and EDUCATION (including Latin, &c.) for Young Gentlemen, £14 per annum. Circular and references on application to Mr. W. C. CLARK, Brill, Bucks.

R. SOUL, Parade, Tonbridge Wells, House Agent, Grocer, &c., will be happy to communicate with Families visiting "The Wells," respecting Dwelling Houses, or Apartments. All letters post-paid.

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS—a SITTING and BED-ROOM, in one of the best streets in Islington, with or without attendance, the latter being preferred.—For address, apply to Mr. GOAD, baker, corner of Gibson-square, Liverpool-road.

TO CONFECTIONERS AND ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN.—To be disposed of an excellent Business in the above Trades, established Thirty Years, situated in the centre of a flourishing county town. The connexion is highly respectable—most of the nobility, clergy, and gentry, in the town and its vicinity. The Business is as good as it has ever been, and the only reason for disposing of it is that the Proprietor wishes to retire. For further particulars, apply by letter—S. P., care of Messrs. Meggeson and Co., 61, Cannon-street, London.

TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.—INSTRUCTION on PRACTICAL FARMING, &c.—A respectable Person having just engaged in Farming in the South of Scotland, can accommodate Two Youths with a COMFORTABLE HOME for a year or two, and where they may acquire a knowledge of IMPROVED FARMING; and, as the Advertiser has had great experience in the management of extensive Estates in England, he will be happy to impart such instruction to his Pupils as may enable them to undertake the management of a Farm or the affairs of an Estate. They will be treated in all respects as part of the family, which is small, and regular in its arrangements, and while every attention will be paid to their personal comforts no less will be paid to the culture of their minds. Books on almost all subjects (with not a few manuscript documents relative to the management of Estates) will be at their command, and no means will be spared in preparing them for discharging the duties of a respectable position in society.

The residence is retired but pleasant, and is little more than a mile from a railway station on a line leading North and South through the island.

Apply by letter, addressed to Mr. J. EASTON, Greencroft, Ecclefechan, N.B.

REMOVAL.—The Offices and Book Depot of the SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL, are removed to No. 2, SERJEANT'S INN, No 50, FLEET-STREET.

May 31st. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—Notice is hereby given, that the ANNUAL EXAMINATION for MATRICULATION in this University will commence on MONDAY the 3rd of JULY.

The Certificate of age must be transmitted to the Registrar fourteen days before the Examination begins.

By order of the Senate,

Marlborough House, 24th May, 1854. R. W. ROTHMAN, Registrar.

THE HOME in the EAST, established for the REFORMATION of CRIMINAL BOYS, 10 and 11, STEPNEY-CAUSEWAY, Commercial-road. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, President. The ANNUAL MEETING of the above Institution will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, on Tuesday, June 6th, at 2 o'clock; Samuel Gurney, Esq., will take the Chair.

KING EDWARD RAGGED and INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS and EASTERN REFUGE, Spitalfields.—A Second Sale of useful and fancy articles, in aid of the funds of this Institution, will be held in the SCHOOL-ROOM, Albert-street, Buxton-street, on WEDNESDAY, MAY 31st, and THURSDAY, JUNE 1st, Doors open from 12 till 8 o'clock. Admission One Shilling. Children Half Price. The value returned.

ELIZA SMITH, MARY CRELLIN, } Hon. Secs.

THE ELIZABETH FRY REFUGE.—The yearly balance sheet of this Institution, ending March 25th, 1854, shows an amount of £141 9s. 8d. due to the Treasurer, and a claim of £57 17s. 2d. unpaid: the expenses for the current year are estimated at £703, making a total of £902 6s. 10d., to meet which £403 is all that can be derived from dividends and annual subscriptions, thus leaving a deficiency of £500. To maintain its present usefulness is utterly impossible without a material increase in its income from the public; the Committee therefore urgently appeal to the benevolent for liberal aid in carrying on this really valuable Institution. Contributions will be most thankfully received by the Treasurer, J. G. BARCLAY, Esq., 54, Lombard-street; Messrs. W. and F. G. CASH, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without; and by CHARLES GORDELIER, Secretary.

92, Fenchurch-street.

BRITISH and FOREIGN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.—The TWENTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY of this ASSOCIATION will be celebrated on WEDNESDAY, the 7th of JUNE next, when the ANNUAL SERMON will be preached at the NEW GRAVEL-PIT CHAPEL, Hackney, by the Rev. EDWARD HIGGINSON, of Wakefield. Service to commence at Eleven o'Clock precisely.

After the close of the Service, the usual MEETING of the Members and Friends of the Association will be held for the transaction of Business. The proceedings will be terminated by a COLLATION, which will be provided at the Manor-rooms, Hackney,

ROBERT SCOTT, Esq., of Stourbridge, in the Chair.

Tickets for the Collation, price 5s. each exclusive of wine, may be had at the offices of the Association, or of Mr. Whitfield, Bookseller, 178, Strand.

Communications from the Country, in reference to the Social Meeting, to be addressed to Mr. Clennell, London Fields, Hackney.

JOHN WEBB, Resident Secretary.

178, Strand, London, May, 1854.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.—The distinctive features of this Association are—That all Education should be religious, but, at the same time, so free from Sectarian influence as to secure the sympathy and co-operation of all denominations of Evangelical Christians: and that the State, being incompetent to give such an Education to the people, should not interfere in the matter, but leave it entirely to Voluntary effort.

THE COMMITTEE having obtained ELIGIBLE APPOINTMENTS for those Pupils who have recently completed their course of study, have now a few VACANCIES in their Normal School for YOUNG MEN desirous of qualifying themselves for SCHOOLMASTERS.

The term of instruction is Twelve months; and the Course comprises, in addition to the usual routine of a sound English Education, Latin, Natural Philosophy, Biblical Studies, Singing, Drawing, and School Practice.

HENRY RICHARD, JOSEPH BARRETT, } Hon. Secs.

7, Walworth-place, Walworth.

PILGRIM FATHERS, CROSBY HALL.—The Celebrated Historical Government Prize Picture, of the DEPARTURE of the PILGRIM FATHERS, is now on view for a short time, at Crosby Hall (entrance Bishopsgate-street), prior to its leaving England.

Admission on presentation of address cards, from Ten to Five o'clock each day.

LECTURES by Rev. F. D. MAURICE, Chaplain of Lincoln's-inn.—A Course of SIX LECTURES will be delivered in WILLIS'S ROOMS, King-street, St. James's, by the Rev. F. D. MAURICE, on LEARNING and WORKING. The Lectures will commence on THURSDAY, JUNE 8, at 3 o'clock, and will be delivered at the same hour on the succeeding Thursdays till they are completed.

TICKETS, £1 1s. for the course, or 5s. for each Lecture, may be obtained at Messrs. Hookham's Library, 15, Old Bond-street; at Messrs. Mudie's Library, 510, New Oxford-street; at Messrs. J. W. Parker and Son's, Publishers, 445, West Strand; at Mr. Nutt's, Foreign Bookseller, 270, Strand; at Mr. G. Bell's Publisher, 186, Fleet-street, and at Mr. Lumley's, Bookseller, Southampton-street, High Holborn.

The Syllabus of Lectures may be had gratis, on application.

RECOGNITION SERVICES in CAVENDISH CHAPEL, RAMSGATE.—On Wednesday, the 7th June, 1854, the Rev. B. COPELAND ETHERIDGE will be publicly recognised as Minister of the above place of worship. In the Morning, the Rev. J. HOWARD HINTON, M.A., of London, will deliver a discourse on the nature and constitution of a Christian Church; and the Rev. WILLIAM BROCK, of London, will Address the Minister. In the Evening, the Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST W. NOEL, M.A., of London, will preach the sermon to the people. Other Ministers of the town and neighbourhood have promised to take part in the services.

Service to commence in the Morning at 11, and in the Evening at half-past 6 o'clock.

A public Dinner and Tea will be provided, at the Royal Oak Hotel.

STEPHEN KNIGHT, GEORGE KITSON, } Deacons.

HOME and SCHOOL for the SONS of MISSIONARIES.—At a MEETING of the STALL-KEEPERS and STEWARDS who conducted the FOREIGN BAZAAR, lately held in the Hall of Commerce, and other friends, May 26, 1854,

NATHANIEL GRIFFITH, Esq., in the Chair,

The Treasurer of the Bazaar Committee reported, that about £315 will be realised to the funds of the Institution, as the result of the late effort.

On the motion of the Rev. Mr. LECKNER, of Salem, India, it was resolved,

That this meeting, while desirous of recording with devout feelings of gratitude the superintending care of a gracious Providence, which has provided a Home and School for the Sons of Missionaries, pledges itself not to relax in any effort calculated to promote its success, and calls upon the friends of Missions throughout the kingdom, to sustain this institution by their contributions, and upon the Ministers of the Gospel to aid it by their earnest advocacy, as a valuable auxiliary to the Missionary cause.

On the motion of the Rev. C. H. BATEMAN, of Hopton, it was resolved,

That, as it appears that a large sum is now expended in rent which would be more usefully employed in the maintenance of the Mission family, if the premises were the property of the institution, an appeal is now made, by circular and otherwise, to the ministers, the presidents, the treasurers, and the committees of the several missionary societies throughout the country soliciting their aid, and that of the various auxiliaries under their care, to a fund for the purchase of freehold land, and the erection of premises for the mission home.

On the motion of J. A. MERRINGTON, Esq., of London, it was resolved,

That the best thanks of this meeting be presented to the lady secretaries, and to the ladies who assisted at the stalls during the late bazaar at the Hall of Commerce; to the stewards for their services on that occasion; and to the Christian friends in China, India, the West Indies, Germany, Switzerland, and in Great Britain, who contributed the articles for sale.

That the foregoing resolutions be advertised in such newspapers and magazines as the Bazaar Committee may direct, and that the same be embodied in a circular and issued as above directed. N. GRIFFITH, Chairman.

Mission-home, 1 and 2, Mornington-crescent.

The sum required for the purchase of land and for the new building is expected to be about £6,000, only £1,000 of which has yet been contributed. Donations and subscriptions are earnestly solicited, and may be paid to the accout of the Treasurer, Thomas Spalding, Esq., at Messrs. Hankey's, Fenchurch-street; at the London Mission-house, Blomfield-street; or Baptist Mission-house, Moorgate-street, to the same account. The average number of boys in the home is about fifty. It is open to all the Evangelical Missionary Societies.

NOTICE.—BERDOE'S VENTILATING WATERPROOF LIGHT OVER COATS resist any amount of rain, *without confining perspiration*, the fatal objection to all other waterproofs, *air-tight* materials being unfit, and dangerous for clothing; and being free from vulgar singularity, are adapted for *general* use, equally as for *rainy* weather, price 45s. and 50s. A large stock for selection, also, of CAPES, SHOOTING JACKETS, LADIES MANTLES, HABITS, &c.—W. BERDOE, TAILOR, &c., 96, NEW BOND-STREET, and 69, CORNHILL (*only*).

DIORAMAS, with Instructive Lectures on subjects of Biblical interest. After the 10th of June, for this season, the DIORAMA OF EGYPT will be discontinued, and the Three o'Clock exhibition will stand as follows:—

WEDNESDAYS, NINEVEH the BURIED CITY.

SATURDAYS, PALESTINE and the HOLY PLACES.

Admission:—Front seats, 2s.; area and gallery, 1s. Schools by arrangement. King William-street Rooms, near Charing-cross Hospital.

COALS, Best 25s.—R. S. DIXON & SON having Colliers which lower their masts and deliver alongside their Wharf, they SUPPLY the BEST COALS direct from the Ship.—Providence Wharf, Belvidere-road, Lambeth.

BEST COALS ONLY.—COCKERELL and Co., Coal Merchants to HER MAJESTY.—Cash price to-day, 25s. per ton for screened unmixed Best Coals (officially certified), to which quality their trade has been exclusively confined for the last twenty years. In submitting 25s. per ton as the lowest price for best coals during the year, Messrs. Cockerell and Co. consider they are fully justified in coming to such conclusion, not only from the greatly increased rates of freight, but from labour and everything connected with the working of the mines having advanced at least 25 per cent. during the last twelve months, and at present there appears no probability whatever of either the cost of working or bringing the coals to market being reduced.—Purfleet Wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars, and Eaton Wharf, Belgrave-place, Pimlico.

PATENT PERAMBULATORS.—C. BURTON, inventor and maker to Her Majesty (*by appointment*).—The distinguished patronage, the flattering encomiums, and the increasing demand, are sufficient proofs of the utility and excellence of these fashionable, safe, and elegant Carriages for adults, children, and invalids. Illustrated Circulars. Shipping Orders.

OFFICE, 487, NEW OXFORD STREET.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE NEW ASYLUM for FATHERLESS CHILDREN, STAMFORD-HILL,

INSTITUTED MAY 15, 1844.

To receive and Educate the Orphan through the whole period of Infancy and Childhood, without distinction of age, sex, place, or religious connexion.

The GENERAL MEETING and MIDSUMMER ELECTION of this Charity will be held on MONDAY, the 19th of JUNE, at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopsgate-street, to receive the Report of the domestic and financial state of the Charity; to elect the several officers; to propose certain variations in the rules, and to elect Fifteen Children.

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR

Will take the Chair at Twelve o'clock, punctually, when business will be transacted and the poll commenced; to close at Three o'clock precisely. Suitable accommodation will be provided for ladies.

The Elections occur regularly on the *Third Monday in January and June*. Persons becoming Subscribers on the day of election *may vote immediately*. Double Proxies can be had at the office, or at the time and place of election. Ladies willing to solicit contributions for the charity, may be supplied with collecting books from the office. Every five guineas so collected entitles to One Life Vote, provided the money is entered in one name only.

THE BUILDING FUND.

The Board ask special attention to the fact, that a fund has been opened, under great encouragement, for the purpose of erecting a suitable Asylum for the Orphan family. Nothing is of more importance at the present time. The children are now accommodated in two houses, at a distance from each other, and the lease of the principal house expired at Lady-day, 1851; and both the expense and the difficulty of management are increased by the want of one well-arranged dwelling, adapted to the necessities and comfort of the household. A Special Address is prepared on this subject, and they earnestly request that their friends would put it into circulation. Copies may be had at the office, or will be cheerfully sent as directed by any subscriber.

It may gratify the subscribers to be informed, that a small estate, of a most eligible character, has been purchased in reference to the proposed permanent Asylum. It has, however, consumed what means they possessed, and they cannot prudently make another advance, until they are encouraged by the liberal contributions of their friends.

DAVID W. WIRE,
THOMAS W. AVELING, } Hon. Secs.

Office, 62, Poultry, where Forms of Application for Candidates may be had gratuitously, and every information, on any day, from Ten till Four. Subscriptions most thankfully received. Post-office orders should be made payable to Mr. JOHN CUZNER, Sub-Secretary, and addressed to him at the office of the charity.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS may obtain tickets of Insurance against RAILWAY ACCIDENTS for the journey on payment of 1d., 2d., 3d., by inquiring of the Booking Clerk at all the principal stations where they take a railway ticket. Railway Passengers Assurance office, 3, Old Broad-street. WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE FREEHOLD LAND, BUILDING and INVESTMENT SOCIETY, combines, in a manner at once novel, effective, and peculiar to itself, the numerous advantages of the Freehold Land Building and Life Assurance Principles. Land shares, £40 each. Monthly, 6s. Building shares, £50 each. Monthly, 10s. Entrance Fees, 1s. per share. Prospectuses and all information may be had of.

THOMAS ALFRED BURR, Manager.

Offices, 29, Moorgate-street, London.

HOUSEHOLDERS' AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—Money received on Deposits at 5 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly in April and October. RICHARD HODSON, Secretary.

15 and 16, Adam-street, Adelphi, London.

BANK OF DEPOSIT, No. 3, Pall-mall East, and 7, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, London. Established A.D. 1834.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS may be opened Daily, with Capital of any amount. Interest payable in January and July.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses and Forms sent free on application.

NATIONAL GUARDIAN ASSURANCE SOCIETY. Chief Office—19, MOORGATE-STREET, London.—The Directors of this Company have much pleasure in informing their Clients and the Public, that they have opened Branch Offices at 8, Newhall-street, BIRMINGHAM; Albion Chambers, BRISTOL; 84, Lord-street, LIVERPOOL; 65, King-street, MANCHESTER; 1, Dean-street, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE; 7, Alter Wandrahm, HAMBURGH; and 95, Queen-street, PORTSEA.

Intending assurers should send for a copy of the last year's report. JESSE HOBSON, Secretary.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE and GENERAL DEPOSIT and ADVANCE COMPANY.

Provisionally Registered under 7 and 8 Vic., cap. cx.

Capital £100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each, with power to increase to £200,000.

OFFICES.—22, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS.

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Millar, Robert James, Esq., North Brixton.
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BANKERS.

The Union Bank of London.

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Messrs. Watson and Sons, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

This Company propose to issue to the Industrial Classes, Life Policies for sums as low as £10,—to receive the premiums in small amounts, at short intervals,—to make the Policies payable to Holder, to avoid expenses,—and to arrange for their surrender on equitable and definite terms, or commutation into a free Policy, for a fixed sum, if the party is unable to continue the payments.

In the Deposit and Advance Department, sums of any amount will be received at interest, and may be withdrawn at short notice, and advances granted on sufficient security.

*** Applications for Shares to be made to the Secretary, at the Offices, 22, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, any day between Ten and Four o'clock, or by letter in the following form:—

Please to allot me Shares in the National Industrial Life Assurance and General Deposit and Advance Company.

Usual Signature.....
Residence .....
Business or Profession .....
SAMUEL GREEN, Secretary.

KENT MUTUAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE SOCIETIES.

CHIEF OFFICE—No. 6, OLD JEWRY, LONDON.

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HIGH-STREET, ROCHESTER.
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LIFE.

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Right Hon. the Lord Viscount Chewton, Wilton-crescent, Belgrave-square.
Sir William Magnay, Bart. and Alderman, Postford Lodge, Guildford, Surrey.
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Alex. Bramwell Bremner, Esq., Billiter-square, and West Hall, Mortlake.
William Squire Plane, Esq., Gravesend.

The great success of this Society since its institution will be seen in the following statement:—

Year.	Number of New Policies issued.	Annual Premiums on New Policies.	Amounts Assured by New Policies.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1850—51	293	2,427 2 2	66,990 8 6
1851—52	127	1,236 15 9	36,749 5 6
1852—53	197	2,287 4 7	69,918 6 0
1853—54	371	5,983 8 2	138,253 8 10
Total..	988	11,934 10 8	341,911 8 10

Most moderate Premiums, half of which may remain unpaid, bearing interest at 5 per cent. Policies granted from £20 and upwards, and for stated periods, the whole term of Life, or assuring payment at specified ages, by Quarterly, Half-yearly, Yearly, or a limited number of Annual payments. No additional charge to persons in the Army, Navy, or Militia, unless in actual service. ALL POLICIES INDISPUTABLE. Lives declined by other Offices assured at rates commensurate with state of health. Whole Profits divisible triennially among the Assured. Liberty for Foreign Residence and Travel greatly extended, and Emigrants covered, at a very moderate additional charge, against the risks of voyage.

The INDUSTRIAL BRANCH offers peculiarly favourable advantages to the humbler classes for securing, by means of small weekly or monthly payments, the receipt of sums payable at specified ages, or on Death. Claims promptly paid.

FIRE.

TRUSTEES.

Right Hon. the Lord Viscount Chewton, Wilton-crescent, Belgrave-square.
Isaac Belsey, Esq., Rochester.
William Squire Plane, Esq., Gravesend.
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Also most reasonable Premiums. Policies issued for small sums and short periods. Guarantee Fund £100,000. Portion of Premiums periodically returned to the Insured. Last return 25 per cent. Claims promptly paid.

Between 9,000 and 10,000 Policies have been issued by these Societies. Agents are required in various localities, and to whom liberal commissions, &c., will be allowed.

Policies may be effected daily; and Prospectuses, Annual Reports, Proposal Forms, and all other Information, will be supplied upon application at the Chief Offices, the Branches, or at any of the numerous Agencies throughout the United Kingdom, personally or by letter. GEORGE CUMMING, Manager.

THE CHOLERA! Its best Antidote!—Sir W. BURNETT'S DISINFECTING FLUID. The Original and Genuine CHLORIDE of ZINC. Sold by all Chemists and Druggists, and at the Office, 18, Cannon-street, London-bridge. N.B.—Beware of a Spurious and Low Priced Imitation.

COCOA NUT FIBRE MATTING AND MATS of the best quality. The Jury of Class 28, Great Exhibition, awarded the Prize Medal to T. TRELOAR, Cocoa Nut Fibre Manufacturer, 42, LUDGATE-HILL, LONDON.

TO MINISTERS, PROFESSIONAL MEN, AND OTHERS.—The OXFORD MIXED DOESKIN TROUSERS, price 18s. Stock for choice, or to measure. S. BATTAM, Coat and Trousers Maker, 160, TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD; four doors south of Shoolbred and Co.'s. Patterns of the Doeskin, and Directions for Measuring, sent free, by post.

WAR WITH RUSSIA!! will compel many to economise: to all such H. KEEN'S 60s. DRESS or FROCK SUITS will prove invaluable. They ensure, as do every article made at his establishment, confidence and support from all who honour him with a trial.—H. KEEN, Tailor, &c., 49, Liquorpond-street, Gray's-inn.—Patterns Post Free.

PERAMBULATORS. and Registered INFANTS' CARRIAGES. Also, Infants', Childrens', and Adults' Carriages, in great variety; elegant, easy, and safe; suited for airing purposes.

T. TROTMAN'S Manufactory, High-street, Camden-town; also, at King-street and Baker-street Carriage Bazaar, Portman-square.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—H. SPARROW & Co. beg to announce, that in consequence of the late reduction of duty and the present depressed state of the Tea-market, they are enabled to offer

Good Breakfast Congou, 2s. 8d., 3s., 3s. 4d., and 3s. 8d.
Fine Souchong, 3s. 4d., 3s. 8d., and 4s.
Young Hyson, 3s. 4d., 3s. 8d., 4s., 4s. 4d., 4s. 8d., and 5s.
Gunpowder, 3s. 8d., 4s., 4s. 4d., 4s. 8d., and 5s.
Fresh Roasted Coffee, 11d.. 1s., 1s. 4d., and 1s. 6d.

With every other article in the Trade proportionately cheap, and of that sterling quality for which they have been celebrated for the last 20 years, price list of which may be had on application, post free, and parcels of £2 value and upwards, rail paid, to any station in the kingdom.—Address, HENRY SPARROW & Co., Wholesale Dealers in Tea, 372, Oxford-street, London.

FUTVOYE'S WEDDING and BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.—This establishment is allowed to possess the largest and choicest variety of English and Foreign Fancy Goods, both valuable and inexpensive, consisting of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Bronzes, Dressing and Writing Cases, Fancy Leather, Pearl, and Tortoiseshell Goods, Papier Mache, &c., many of which are admirably adapted for presents, and prove the already well known extensive nature of Messrs. Futvoye's wholesale transactions. Apart from this establishment, they are enabled to supply the best workmanship, combined with moderate charges, which, it is scarcely necessary to state, can only be effected in such cases. Retail, 154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street; wholesale and export warehouse, 28 and 29, Silver-street, and 34, Rue de Rivoli, Paris. Illustrated Catalogues sent free on application.

FIVE GUINEAS.—Mr. WM. H. HALSE, the Medical Galvanist, of 22, BRUNSWICK-SQUARE, LONDON, informs his friends that his FIVE GUINEA APPARATUSES are now ready.

Send two postage-stamps for his Pamphlet on Medical Galvanism.

SOUTHGATE and BARRETT have received instructions from Mr. HOGARTH, of the Haymarket, to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, at their Fine Art and Book Auction Rooms, 22, Fleet-street, London, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 7th, and following evenings,

THE WHOLE of the REMAINING COPIES
of the very celebrated Work known as
"FINDEN'S ROYAL GALLERY OF BRITISH ART,"

consisting of a limited number of artists' and other choice proofs and the print impressions, which are all in an exceedingly fine state. The work consists of forty-eight plates, the whole of which are engraved in line by the most eminent men in that branch of art, and the pictures selected will at once show that the great artists—Turner, Eastlake, Landseer, Stanfield, Webster, Roberts, Wilkie, Maclise, Mulready, and more than thirty other British masters—are represented by the works which established and upheld them in public favour, and by themes which appeal to universal sympathy and happiest affections, or which delineate the peculiar glories of our country.

The attention of the public is also particularly directed to the fact that ALL THE ENGRAVED PLATES from which the impressions now offered have been taken WILL BE DESTROYED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PURCHASERS at the time of sale. By thus securing the market from being supplied with inferior impressions at a future time, and at a cheaper rate, the value of the existing stock will be increased, and it will become the interest of all who wish to possess copies of these eminent works of art at a reduced price to purchase them at this sale, which will be the ONLY OPPORTUNITY of obtaining them.

SOUTHGATE and BARRETT beg also to announce that they will include in their SALE by AUCTION of "FINDEN'S ROYAL GALLERY" the whole of the STOCKS of PROOFS and PRINTS of the following HIGHLY-IMPORTANT ENGRAVINGS, published by Mr. Hogarth and Messrs. Lloyd and Co:—

Ehrenbreitstein, painted by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., engraved by John Pye. Ecce Homo, from the picture by Correggio, engraved by G. T. Doo. The Dame School, painted by T. Webster, R.A., engraved by L. Stocks. Eton Montem, two views illustrative of, from pictures by Evans of Eton, engraved by Charles Lewis. Portrait of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, engraved by Samuel Cousins, A.R.A., from a picture by George Richmond. Portraits of Eminent Persons, by George Richmond and C. Baugniet. Portrait of W. C. Macready, Esq., as Werner, painted by D. Maclise, R.A., engraved by Sharpe. Flowers of German Art, a series of twenty plates by the most eminent engravers. Cranstone's Fugitive Etchings, seventeen plates. Turner and Girtin's River Scenery, thirty plates. Cottage Piety, painted by Thomas Faed, engraved by Henry Lemon (unpublished). See-Saw, painted by T. Webster, R.A., engraved by Holl (unpublished). Village Pastor, painted by W. P. Frith, R.A., engraved by Holl. The Immaculate Conception, painted by Guido, engraved in line by W. H. Watt. Harvey demonstrating to Charles the First his Theory of the Circulation of the Blood, painted by Hannah, engraved by Lemon. The Origin of Music, painted by Selous, engraved by Wass. The First Step, painted by Faed, engraved by Sharpe. The Prize Cartoons, published by Messrs. Longmans and Co.

ALL THE ENGRAVED PLATES of the above mentioned engravings WILL BE DESTROYED in the presence of the purchasers at the time of sale, thus securing to them the same advantages as in the sale of "Finden's Royal Gallery."

Framed impressions of each of the plates as well as of the "Finden," can be seen at Mr. Hogarth's, 5, Haymarket; at Messrs. Lloyd Brothers and Co., 22, Ludgate-hill, and at the Auctioneers', 22, Fleet-street, by whom all communications and commissions will be promptly and faithfully attended to.

In the same sale will also be included the very extensive, highly important, and extremely choice stock of modern English and Foreign Engravings, Water-colour Drawings, and expensive Books of Prints, of Mr. Hogarth, of the Haymarket.

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22, Fleet-street, London.

JAMES SCOTT and COMPANY beg to announce that they have now opened their premises, 77 and 78, St. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD. Their stock of SILKS, MANTLES, SHAWLS, DRESSES, RIBBONS, HOSIERY, LACE, &c., is entirely new, and replete with every novelty for the present season.

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BARON LIEBIG on ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE.—"I am myself an admirer of this beverage, and my own experience enables me to recommend it, in accordance with the opinion of the most eminent English physicians, as a very agreeable and efficient tonic, and as a general beverage, both for the invalid and the robust."—Giessen, May 6.

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THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A FOLLY THAT MAKES NO RETURN.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S speech last week, in resistance of Sir William Clay's motion for the abolition of Church-rates, was almost as significant as that of Lord Stanley—but it pointed in an opposite direction. It was the speech of a man who felt that he had no case—hesitatingly delivered, shaded with a consciousness of coming defeat, and full of considerations which, in the mouth of a Liberal Minister, imply the severest condemnation of his whole policy and career. It was an appeal to the fears of a party, not to lend themselves to assist in doing an act of justice, lest that act should draw after it the necessity of some further concessions, which the party might find it inconvenient to grant. It was an essentially Tory plea, which we had foolishly supposed that none but poor old Sir Robert Inglis would have had the hardihood to put forward.

The noble lord's comparison of the Established Church with the crow in the fable, having a piece of cheese in its beak, was a very felicitous one—but not for his purpose. It is awkwardly suggestive. The cheese, especially as one is at liberty to suppose it stolen from some neighbouring dairy, for Providence does not provide *cheese* as the natural aliment of crows—the beak, which brings to mind the organ which the Church turns to much better and more frequent account than her voice—and the crow, a description of bird often spoken of as emblematic of a parson—really represented in a most appropriate and lively figure the Church of England retaining a tenacious hold upon the Church-rate system. Whether it is a comely position for a Church, professing to have derived her authority from the divine author of our faith, and supposed to be charged with executing on earth the most benign of missions—whether it is comely for that Church to show herself to the world, anxious rather to retain an odious and exclusive privilege, than to win the hearts of gainsayers by spiritual beauty, it is for the noble lord to consider who made use of this somewhat unflattering simile. But let this pass!

A review, by the noble lord, of the several unsuccessful compromises which have been made from time to time by Governments of which he was a member, led him to the conclusion, that no settlement of the question can be hoped for at present. Might not the noble lord have drawn another, and, perhaps, a truer inference from former failures? Could he not see that, on religious questions, his darling system of compromise is ever unsatisfactory to all parties? And can he say that, when the Whigs proposed a measure in which Dissenters could heartily acquiesce, that the efforts of the Government to pass it were such as indicated earnest resolution? The truth is, the noble lord has never dealt with this matter *con amore*. He has always put forward either unacceptable proposals, or he has addressed them to Parliament in a manner which invited defeat. There is no disguising the fact, that Lord John Russell is unwilling to surrender any one of what he calls the high "prerogatives" or "exclusive privileges" of the Church Establishment. He looks upon Church-rates as a symbol of dominancy—and, with all his professions in favour of "religious liberty," he never did intend, nor does he now intend, that all the subjects of her Majesty should be placed by law upon a footing of equality in respect of the religion they may choose to profess. With him it is, "Cæsar and Pompey are very much alike—'specially Pompey."

Why should the Church surrender this impost, the noble lord asks in effect, when it is pretty certain that the surrender would only be followed by further demands? Don't imagine, he warns the opposite party, that the abolition of Church-rates will decide the controversy between the Church and Dissenters. Why, what more unreasonable could the most determined Tory say, in opposition to any and every reform which the noble lord himself may think fit to propose? Is any measure absolutely final? Because legislation cannot remove every difference between contending parties, is no legislation whatever to be attempted? It is quite true, as his lordship says, that the abolition of Church-rates will not dispose of that far greater question of which it is only a part. But if reforms are to be gradual, if they are to follow the course of public opinion, if they are to represent the feeling of the country for the time being, it is surely impolitic above all things to determine never to move an inch forward lest you should hereafter be called upon to move another. The noble lord's whole life has been a series of protests against this irrational obstructiveness—and, we verily believe, that it is only on ecclesiastical topics that he would consent to borrow the rusty arms of Toryism with which to defend himself. That he does so in this case only proves that he is hard up for reasonable or even plausible arguments.

Lord John Russell can hardly affect to be ignorant of the real opinion of the country on the question of Church-rates. He must be aware that, in every large town—wherever, in fact, people are at liberty to express their mind—the system has been condemned, and practically extinguished. He can hardly hope to retain things as they are. He confesses that all compromise seems to be now out of the question. The position gallantly assumed by Lord Stanley might have convinced him that it were wise to yield with an air of grace that which it is impossible long to keep, and the keeping of which does more harm to the Church than to Nonconformists. And yet the noble lord, knowing well that he would not take with him above a dozen of his supporters, must needs incur a gratuitous defeat, and damage the *prestige* of his name and Government, to give a momentary indulgence to his sympathies with the Establishment. He seems to count upon a reversal of the House's decision on the second reading of the bill. Let him not be over sanguine. His political opponents may again leave him in the lurch—or, even if they come to his aid, may yet be unable to wrest victory from the hands of Sir W. Clay. But what a pitiable spectacle it is to see the leader of the Liberals pertinaciously clinging to a policy which cannot be maintained but in defiance of the wishes of the great bulk of his supporters! Oh! Lord John! the bishops are leading you into a lamentable predicament.

It only remains now for the country, and especially for the Dissenters, to follow up with activity the advantage already gained. Every place which has not already petitioned should do so without delay—and every member whose vote is considered doubtful, or whose absence will be at all likely, should be well and vigorously plied by his constituents. The "viper" which is "scotched" may be "killed," with a little additional courage and exertion. There is hope, if our friends will but bestir themselves. The question is one which must be carried by resolute action *out of doors*. A short month's labour and self-sacrifice will probably ensure the speedy realisation of what so many myriads have long sighed for — the removal from our midst of that "root of bitterness" which almost every parish has been compelled to taste, to the cost of its social peace, and to the scandal of religion.

THE GRANTS FOR EDUCATION.

THE Civil Service Estimates now published contain particulars of the grants for education, &c., during the present year. The total grants under this head for 1854, are for Great Britain £263,000, showing an increase of £3,000 as compared with last year; for Ireland, £193,040, being an increase of £10,967 for the year. In these estimates are included £2,006 for Professors in Oxford and Cambridge, £3,875 for the London University, £7,710 for Universities, &c., in Edinburgh, £3,600 for Theological Professors at Belfast (a decrease of £150), and £2,259 for the Queen's University, Ireland. On the whole estimate for education, science, and art, there is an increase as compared with 1853 of £124,389.

Since the issue of these estimates a statement of the expenditure from the education grant, from 1839 to Dec. 31, 1853, and of the expenditure for the year ending Dec. 31, 1853, has been published. For this useful return the public are, we believe, indebted to Mr. Hadfield, M.P. We find from this statement that no less than £466,081 has been expended in building, enlarging, repairing, and furnishing 2,972 elementary schools; £124,678 upon 24 normal schools; £382,409 in paying the stipends and gratuities of 6,912 pupil-teachers; £149,352 in the salaries of 38 inspectors; and not less than £17,391 upon the expenses of the offices of Committee of the Council in London. The expenses of administration from 1839 to 1853 run up to £171,153.

The same return shows how the educational grant has been distributed amongst various denominations. Schools connected with the Church of England have received the lion's share, being no less than £880,960; £117,000 has fallen to the share of the British and Foreign School Society; £46,113 to Wesleyan schools; £24,372 to Roman Catholic schools; and £81,784 to workhouse schools. A considerable sum has been paid for the support of schools in Scotland—£78,673 to the Established Church, and £59,745 to the Free Church. The balance in the hands of the Committee of Council on Education, on the 31st of December, 1853, was £155,989.

So much for the past. With respect to the distribution of the grant for the ensuing year, it is estimated that for building schools, &c., which in 1853 was only £26,100, no less than £64,000 will be required; for grants to pupil-teachers, £130,000; for grants in augmentation of the salaries of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, £37,000; for training institutions, £25,000. Kneller's Hall is estimated to require £4,800, the London office, £10,053; thirty-nine inspectors, £30,770.

From these statements we deduce the facts, that the Church of England obtains no less than 92 per cent. of the whole educational grant; that the expenses of management in London absorb something like 15 per cent. of the entire amount; that, though there are 15,418 public day-schools in Great Britain, only some 4,000 are assisted by public grants; and that, if the whole grant of £260,000 were distributed amongst the public day-schools in equal proportions, it would only amount to £16 per school. We have thus another confirmation of the conclusion, that the greater part of the educational resources of the country are provided by voluntary agency; for no less than 30,524 private schools are maintained without any public support whatever.

It will be remembered, that the educational estimates for last year, though augmented by £100,000, were allowed to pass *sub silentio*, in consequence of uncertainty as to the time they would be brought on. The irresponsible Committee of Council on Education has, thus far, escaped that Parliamentary criticism to which other departments are subject, and continues to legislate on education by means of its Minutes. This year we trust the whole subject will be fully debated.

When so large a sum of public money is annually expended on education, there ought to be a Ministerial statement, and ample opportunity for subsequent discussion. Were the constitution of the Committee on Education, its mode of expending the grants, and its subserviency to the Church fully exposed, we doubt whether the public would so easily acquiesce in more than a quarter of a million being annually spent upon an object which, we believe it might be shown, would best be secured without the interference or assistance of the State.

PUSEYITE RE-MARRIAGE AT FROME.

A curate of the Rev. Mr. Bennett, Vicar of Frome, has produced great excitement in that parish, and attracted fresh obloquy to the late minister of St. Barnabas, by re-marrying a couple named Dimmock, who were lately united at Zion Chapel, by the Rev. Mr. Anthony. The wife was persuaded into being re-married by a lady who is known locally as Madame Green, a sister of mercy. It appears that in the Church book Dimmock is described as marrying "Elizabeth Dimmock, formerly Plummer." The column usually filled up "bachelor and spinster" may have been thought rather puzzling, for no attempt is made to describe the condition of the parties, but there is written instead, "previously united at Zion Meeting-house."

In resentment of this "outrage upon the English law and Protestantism," a meeting was held in the National School-room, which proved insufficient to contain all who wished to be present. The Hon. Colonel Boyle, M.P. for the borough, took the chair. After speeches from the Baptist, Independent, and Wesleyan ministers of the town, the following resolutions were carried, and a petition to the House of Commons entrusted to Colonel Boyle:—

That, in the judgment of this meeting, the re-marriage of persons already united in matrimony is a violation, or, at least, an evasion, of the law of the land; that it forms part of a system designed to set up ecclesiastical arrogance against civil authority; and, therefore, that it is an act deserving the reprobation of every Englishman.

That the doctrine which asserts the act of a priest to be needful for the due celebration of marriage, and that, unless such priestly rite be performed, the marriage is invalid, is equivalent to the Papal dogma which makes marriage a sacrament, is opposed to the doctrines of all the Reformers, and forms part of a dishonest system which strikes at the very root of Protestantism.

That this meeting, composed of various classes and religious denominations in the town, feels that an insult and indignity has been offered to the Nonconformist part of the community by the course pursued by the Vicar of Frome in the pretended re-marriage of persons known to have been previously married, and would express its regret that one whose profession ought to make him a promoter of peace and goodwill, should have introduced strife, discord, and heart-burning throughout the town.

The Rev. Mr. Anthony, by whom the Dimmocks were first "united," related to the meeting some particulars of Madame Green's mission of "mercy:"—

He found some difficulty in getting at Mrs. Dimmock, but he saw her and said to her, "Now, if you do not like to do so, you are not bound to give me any reply, and I do not wish to press you at all, but I am come to ask you to tell me one thing. Did the suggestion about the marriage at the church come from you or from some other quarter?" She at once said it came from Madame Green (hear, hear, and hisses.) His rev. friend had called her a sister of misery, and such she had been to the Dimmock family; he rather thought, too, that she was a sister of calumny (cheers). He asked Mrs. Dimmock whether she was satisfied with her state before that, and she replied "Yes, perfectly satisfied." "Was your husband satisfied?" "O yes, he was perfectly satisfied." (Hear.) He then asked her if she would like for him to repeat what had passed to a number of old friends, and she said if he liked he might do so. He also said, "May I repeat it to the meeting to-morrow night?" and she said he might do so. He had seen Mrs. Dimmock again that morning, and she had evidently been spoken to, for she was perfectly changed in her statement, and said Madame Green did not tell her that she was living in sin, but in a wrong state in the sight of God. He remarked to her that it would be living in sin to be living in a wrong state in God's sight. She was perfectly changed; but her husband, he was happy to state, was ingenuous and consistent. He would now tell them of another case in which Madame Green had gone to a poor woman, accompanied by one of those young ladies whom *Punch* must have had in his eye, and who always commenced action with "such a dear duck of a bishop." (Laughter.) This poor woman had a poor sickly child of about thirteen months old, and, as was always the case, the mother's feelings were deeply concentrated upon her afflicted offspring. Madame Green asked her, "Has your child been baptized?" She said "No," for the poor woman was sitting under the ministry of Mr. Middleditch. "Then," said Madame Green, "Do you know where your child will go if it dies?" The child was sickly, and the mother's heart was sore, but she had hope, and she replied, "Yes, to heaven." "No," said Madame Green, "she will lift up her eyes in hell fire." (Loud expressions of indignation.) Madame Green further asked her, "Have you ever been married?" "Yes," answered the woman. "Where?" "I was married at the Baptist chapel." Then, said Madame Green, "You are not married at all; you are living in fornication, and your children are illegitimate." (Renewed expressions of disapprobation.) Such was the charitable statement of Madame Green, but the poor woman had read her bible better, and she replied, "Mr. Middleditch can marry as well as Mr. Bennett." (Cheers.) But the sister of mercy or misery was not to be turned away, and she said, "I tell you you are deceived; you are not married at all. If you will be married at the church, Mr. Bennett will be a friend to you, and your children will be well educated, and you will have many other things." The poor woman, to her honour be it spoken, was not to be swayed by such considerations. She ordered Madame Green out of her house (cheers), and she had told him (Mr. Anthony) that he was at liberty to mention the case, and that she was ready to take her oath to it before any number of persons.

Mr. Anthony also examined the plea upon which it was attempted to justify the re-marriage, and to argue that in the Dimmocks' case none of the facts required, as laid down in Burns' Ecclesiastical Law, had been complied with. In the first place, the parties contemplated in the Master of Faculties' affidavit and license were those who applied to the clergyman having uneasiness of conscience. Now, if the parties had not been told that they were not married, the thing would never have been done. Then there was another important point. It was required that an oath should be taken. (Hear.) Now, he had asked the Dimmocks if they had taken any oath. The woman began to shuffle and evade; she evidently had been taught something, but the husband spoke out and said, "No, we have taken no oath. It is my wife's doings, and I have cared nothing about it." (Cheers.) The law of England declared that marriage was marriage without any religious ceremony. As Christians, they held that religion should form part of the marriage rites, but it was no part of marriage by law, and Mr. Bennett, as an officer of the State, was bound to respect the law. A little thing, the turning of a straw, would tell how the wind blows, and he had been anxious to know what was the view of the Church of Rome as to marriage. He knew before that, as regarded baptism, she held that rite, when administered by a layman in the name of the Trinity, as a valid baptism, and being anxious to know her views as respected marriage, he had called upon Mr. Ward. That gentleman received him with much courtesy, told him he had heard what Mr. Bennett had done, and he deeply regretted it. He afterwards addressed him this letter:—

Rev. Sir,—I am sure you will appreciate my motives for wishing to put in writing the substance of my reply to your inquiries this morning. Persons who have been married in *England* otherwise than in the presence of a priest are not required, on that account, to be married again when they become Catholics. Whether their marriage has been solemnised before the registrar, in a Nonconformist chapel, or in a place of worship belonging to the Establishment, in either case it is valid, if there be no other objection to it than the absence of the priest. It must however be observed, that the validity of such a marriage, in the judgment of the Catholic Church, is not derived from the fact of its being sanctioned by the law of the land, but simply from the fact that the discipline of the Council of Trent, which alone makes such a marriage invalid, is not in force in England. It is in force in Ireland, and therefore persons so married in that country would have to be married again. I remain, rev. sir, yours faithfully,

RICHARD WARD.

It would be seen from this that Puseyism out-Heroded Herod. It was forging fetters for the consciences of Englishmen which Rome in her palmiest days never dreamt of; it was raising pretensions which Rome in her greatest strength did not raise.

Another speaker (the Rev. S. Manning) read a quotation from a sermon by Mr. Bennett himself on the new marriage act; pronouncing it just, wise, and salutary, that every Christian should be permitted to contract marriage by whatever religious ceremony his conscience approved.

The meeting did not disperse till a late hour; and, towards the conclusion, became rather intolerant. One speaker declared that he "had not an iota of respect for Mr. Bennett, but detested the sight of him;" another complained that the parish was insulted by the elevation of the church flag on every foolish occasion, and the presence of people with "foreign cloaks, hiding cloven feet, and he knew not what." A third recommended that "petitions should be got up north, south, east and west, so as to drive Mr. Bennett from the country at once."

THE ANTI-CHURCH-RATE AGITATION.

The promptitude of the response given to the appeal of the Liberation Society, in prospect of Sir W. Clay's motion, is strikingly indicated by the fact that, in about a fortnight, there were prepared and presented 481 petitions, having 57,164 signatures. The executive are, we understand, now renewing their efforts, in anticipation of the second reading of the bill on the 23rd June, and particularly urge their friends, not only to send petitions from places from which they have not yet been forwarded, but to communicate with their representatives, with a view to secure their votes.

On Wednesday evening, the 17th instant, a public meeting was held in the County-hall, Abingdon, to consider the desirableness of petitioning Parliament in favour of Sir W. Clay's motion for the total abolition of Church-rates. A large and influential number of the inhabitants assembled, and gave good evidence of their hearty concurrence in this movement. James Williams, Esq., of Northcourt, occupied the chair, and able and eloquent addresses were delivered by J. Carvell Williams, Esq., and C. T. Foster, Esq., LL.D., on the injustice and inexpediency, not merely of Church-rates, but of all State patronage and control in matters of religion. A resolution, adopting a petition, was moved by the Rev. R. H. Marten, B.A., and seconded by the Rev. S. Lepine, the Baptist and Independent ministers of the town, and carried unanimously. We trust the effect of the meeting will be shown at the next vestry. Hitherto a rate has been made without opposition; but we are greatly mistaken if another will ever be enforced.

A petition against Church-rates has been well signed in Plymouth. It is many years since we had Church-rates in this town. The Rev. J. Hatchard, the respected vicar, has always been opposed to them, and the advantages of the plan adopted in connexion with the old church, is seen in the success of the pew system, from which a large revenue has not only been derived, but the church has been very greatly beautified, and full accommodation is given to the poor.

The Liverpool petition for the entire abolition of Church-rates, presented to the House of Commons by Sir William Clay, was signed by 2,392 persons, being 818 more than recently polled against the rate, and 1,355 more than voted for it. A considerable number of members of the Established Church were amongst the petitioners.

In spite of the almost universal condemnation of Church-rates by public opinion, seizures for non-payment of the obnoxious impost are still very frequent. Some property belonging to Mr. G. T. Coomer, of Milton, Gravesend, has been seized for this purpose; and we observe that a handbill has been issued, offering the reward of "the peace of a good conscience" to whosoever will discover the consciences (?) of the persons concerned therein, "and will give to them such information and instructions as shall induce them never more to sin in like manner." At Margate, also, property to the value of £6 15*s.* was seized from the premises of Mr. F. Martin to satisfy a demand for a rate of 3s. 4½d.!! Mr. Martin has issued a bill to his fellow-townsmen on the subject, in which he says:—"Those of you especially who possess the elective franchise—with you, and the electors of Great Britain generally, lies the remedy for this crying evil. Send no man as your representative to Parliament who will not pledge himself to use all constitutional means for the severance of the unholy alliance between Church and State; and when this object is accomplished, the Church will be relieved from the trammels of the State, which, on its part, will be more at liberty to attend to its own concerns."

A vestry meeting for the parish of Kensington was held on Friday morning, the Rev. Archdeacon Sinclair in the chair, for the purpose of examining and passing the accounts of the late churchwardens, and ascertaining the Church-rate for the ensuing year. The totals of the numerous vouchers of last year's expenses having been read, and stated to amount to the enormous sum of £1,297 2s. 1d., it was moved by Dr. M. Trueman, M.D., and seconded by Mr. P. H. Benest, "That a committee be appointed for the purpose of examining the accounts and reporting the result to the parishioners." This reasonable request having been refused, and the accounts (without examination) forthwith passed, it was moved by Mr. Benest, and seconded by Dr. Trueman, "That a balance-sheet of the receipt and expenditure be printed, and circulated for the information of the parishioners." This also was refused by a majority of four. A rate of 1½d. in the pound having been demanded, it was moved and seconded, that inasmuch as a committee of examination had been refused, the parishioners do grant ½d. in the pound; upon which a poll of the whole parish was demanded.

SIR W. CLAY'S BILL AND THE CHURCH PRESS.

The Church newspapers scarcely know what to make of last Tuesday's debate and division on Church-rates. Thus the *Morning Chronicle* thinks it was needless:—

The Church-rate question is substantially settled. In a very few years the impost, wherever it is a social wrong, will be as obsolete as the Bishop's license for diocesan schoolmasters; and any attempt at hurried legislation on the subject—especially at a period of the session when a bill has no chance of passing—is, perhaps, the surest way of perpetuating the ill-feeling which is inseparable from the thing. For all practical purposes, we are content with Lord John Russell's decision on the matter. The case does not need the interposition of the Legislature; and, at any rate, this is not the moment for stirring the question.

The question, argues the Puseyite organ, must be treated simply and singly as a logical consequence of the Toleration Act. A compromise can be only a temporary expedient. At one time the Church might, if it would, have transferred the tax to the Consolidated Fund. "But how long would this payment have been endured? Has the Maynooth Grant—has the *Regium Donum*—signs of perpetuity?" The *Morning Post* admits that it is right and proper Dissenters should be relieved from Church-rates, but thinks it a little barefaced that, through Sir W. Clay's bill, they should say to the Church conscience,—If you do wish to pay Church-rates, you shall not be permitted. Sir William must, therefore, prepare for defeat on the second reading. It is a grievance in the eyes of the *Post* that the bill takes away from Churchmen the power of rating themselves; and our fashionable contemporary maintains, *more suo*, that the entire abolition of Church-rates, without any *legal* substitute, would entail an entire change in the laws which now regulate our parochial system, and would not allay strife.

The abolition of Church-rates is not called for. All that is called for is a measure for the relief of Dissenters. Let it but be enacted that Dissenters cannot be called upon to pay Church-rates, and the thing is done. There need be no clause about registering Dissenters. Simply make the statute, and the law courts will determine what is and what is not a Dissenter. A man who never goes to church, but always, or sometimes, goes to chapel, might be held to be a Dissenter, and to be exempt from paying Church-rates.

The *Church and State Gazette* can only express "surprise that so many members of Parliament, professed friends of the Church, left the House as soon as Sir W. Clay began to speak. All parties appear to think that Sir William's measure will be carried, and *one* party is concerned touching the matter of compensation." The *Record*, favourable to a compromise of the question, thinks that the decision of last week requires that Government should decide upon some course or other for the adjustment of this question.

The Dissenters demand *total repeal*. But surely they can hardly expect that, with a majority of people on their side, and with the law still in their favour, Churchmen should consent to give up a revenue of £600,000 per annum without any compensation. We are prepared to accept any reasonable compromise; but we are not yet in a position to submit to an *absolute surrender*.

The principle of Church-rates is the principle of a National Establishment. This principle is still maintained by a large majority of the educated and Christian men of Great Britain, and we firmly believe it to be one of vital importance to the religious and moral welfare of every Christian country.

FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS' GRANT IN VICTORIA.

The proposal to grant £50,000 out of the revenue of the colony of Victoria has been debated at some length in the Legislative Council, meeting at Melbourne, and, on the 18th February, was carried by 28 to 10 votes. We have no room this week for an outline of the discussion; but subjoin the following letter, received from a staunch Nonconformist, who has emigrated from this country:—

Melbourne, Victoria, Feb. 1854.

Dear Sir,—By the ship *Kent*, I send you some copies of the *Argus*, in order that you may have the latest information of the barefaced and high-handed manner in which our Legislative Assembly is carrying itself against the plainly-expressed and declared wish of the people with respect to the proposed endowment, not of religion, but of sectarianism and irreligion. You will perceive, also, the scarcely concealed infidelity and carelessness of all religious truth displayed in the reasoning of the *Argus* on this question, which boldly asserts in a leader on this question, Feb. 18th, "that the State ought to endow both truth and error, *because* both truth and error contribute their quota to the State!" Then with admirable consistency it goes on to observe,—"If the State assume the responsibility of conscience-keeper to the people, it must advance truth and destroy error wherever they may be respectively found, and we know from every page of history what has been the result of such *unholy meddling* as this. All experience teaches us what is the inevitable result, when man audaciously ventures to step between his brother man and God." Admirable remarks to accompany the proposal thus to perpetuate this meddling system which, according to his own showing, has been so disastrous in its results.

Though the endowment clause was carried by a majority of twenty-eight to ten, you may rest assured, Mr. Editor, the question will not rest here. There is a determined resolution on the part of almost all sections of the Christian church, and amongst the mass of the people—as far as this colony is concerned—to separate decisively and for ever the Church from the mischeivous interference, whether by control or professed support, of the State. We have taken for our motto, "Religion shall be Free," and by all and every means are we determined to secure its enfranchisement. Petitions have been presented from all the Congregational and Baptist churches in Melbourne, with, I believe, the single exception of Mr. Morrison's; from a large public meeting convened in the Mechanics' Hall, the Mayor presiding; and from various private individuals, against this measure—but if they will refuse to listen to the voice of the people, other measures must be adopted. Agitate, agitate, agitate, must be our cry, and agitate we will until our great object is accomplished.

I am, dear Sir, an old reader, and still admirer, of your valued journal, THOMAS GOODLIFFE.

CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.—This bill, which Sir W. Clay obtained leave to bring in yesterday week, has been printed. Its provisions are very precise and simple, and the four clauses of the bill are contained in less than twenty lines. It provides, that after the passing of the act no Church-rate shall be levied in England or Wales. A temporary exception is to be made for parishes in which money has been raised on the security of the Church-rates under local acts. This act does not include Scotland and Ireland.

THE NEW ACT ON MINISTERS' MONEY.—The new act, which received the Royal assent a few days ago, to amend the laws relating to ministers' money and the Church Temporalites (Ireland) Act, has been printed. It contains 11 sections, and recites that, from the diminished value of houses in certain parts of Ireland, the burden of the sums charged under the act of Charles II. respecting ministers' money had become unequal, and from that cause, and from other causes, the collection of the ministers' money has been found difficult, and in many cases oppressive to the poor inhabitants of the houses charged therewith. It provides that, from the 1st October next, the existing charges of ministers' money shall cease. The charge of ministers' money for the year ending the 31st of December, 1853, is to be ascertained, all houses rated to the poor at or under £10 being deducted, and the amounts are to be certified to the collector-general of rates, town clerks, and clerks to boards of guardians. The sums so certified are to be raised in each parish by means of a rate upon all houses now chargeable, except those rated at or under £10. The sums are to be paid to the Paymaster-General of the Civil Services, and to be transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Rates may be redeemed. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are to pay to incumbents £75 per cent. on the sum payable for ministers' money during the year 1853. The money is to be vested in Government securities. The funds in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners may be applied to the augmentation of benefices, and increasing the number of clergymen. Nonpayment of rates to prevent persons being admitted as burgesses, &c.

Religious Intelligence.

DERBY.—We are requested to state that the Rev. A. Perry has not resigned the pastorate of Agard-street Chapel, but has only given notice of his intention of doing so.

POTTON.—Mr. Richard Hoskin, student in the Theological Institution, Corton-end, has received and accepted a very cordial and unanimous invitation from the Congregational church at Potton, Bedfordshire, to become their pastor.

BAPTIST ACADEMY, PONTYPOOL.—The annual meetings connected with this institution occurred on Wednesday and Thursday last, May 24th and 25th. On Wednesday morning the examination of the students took place at the College—the theological department being conducted by the Rev. Mr. Aitcheson, of Newport, and the classical by Mr. Daniel, of Bristol. In the evening of the same day, at seven o'clock, the Welsh service was held in Crane-street Chapel, when an interesting essay was read by Mr. Joseph Lewis, the senior student, on the "Life and Times of Constantine the Great," and a Welsh sermon preached by the Rev. T. Thomas, Bassaleg. On Thursday morning, at eleven o'clock, the English service was held, when an able and instructive essay, on "Demoniacal Possessions," was read by Mr. Edward Wilks, student, and a very appropriate sermon delivered by the Rev. Stephen Price, Abersychan. It is expected that the *two* essays will shortly appear in the *Seren Gomer*, a Welsh periodical.

LAUNTON CHAPEL, OXON.—The anniversary of the opening of the above place of worship was held on the 24th instant, when an excellent sermon was preached, to a respectable and very attentive congregation, by the Rev. B. Attenborough, of Winslow, Bucks. A tea-meeting was held at half-past four o'clock, and a public meeting in the evening. The sum of £8 9s. 4½d.—including collections, donations, and the profits of the tea-meeting—was raised to pay for the trust deed. This beautiful village chapel is out of debt, and the deed has been enrolled in the legal form; so that the Launton Congregational Independents are now in possession of a very elegant and commodious chapel and a large burial-ground, which are legally secured to themselves and their own denomination for ever. The members of the branch church at the village of Launton are workers together in religion—they are now about to erect a schoolroom close by the new chapel, for the use of their day and Sabbath-school children; and Mrs. Jones has recently placed a very neat time-piece in the new chapel. The Launton Branch Church is under the pastoral care of the Rev. W. Ferguson, of Bicester, Oxon.

Correspondence.

M. MAZZINI ON THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—On behalf of the committee of the North of England Anti-slavery and India Reform League, I beg to request the publication in your columns of the enclosed copy of an admirable letter recently addressed by M. Mazzini to our chairman, the Rev. Dr. Beard. You will perceive that the great advocate of Italian independence fully identifies himself with those much maligned, but noble and heroic men, in the United States, who are engaged in a fierce and unceasing warfare with that dark and rapacious slave power which overshadows the land both North and South; and which, not satisfied with its frightful successes in 1850, is, at this moment, seeking to add to its dominion, and to blight with the withering curse of "the peculiar institution," the vast North-West territory. Mazzini's faithful testimony to the cause of the negro furnishes a striking contrast to Kossuth's inconsistent and unworthy course during his visit to America. I have sent copies of the letter to the *Liberator*, and other excellent anti-slavery journals issued in the United State, and I have no doubt that its publication will exercise a powerful influence for good in the minds of the political exiles who have found a refuge in that country, and who, in too many instances, adopt the ignoble policy of the Hungarian chief.

Yours very respectfully,
F. W. CHESSON, Hon. Sec.

Manchester, May 26, 1854.

[COPY.]

DEAR SIR,—I have delayed to the present moment my answering your kind invitation in the hope that I should perhaps be enabled to give a better answer than a written one. But I find neither health nor business will allow me to attend. I must write and express to you, and through you to your friends, how much I feel grateful for your having asked me to attend the first meeting of the North of England Anti-Slavery Association; how earnestly I sympathise with the noble aim you are going to pursue; how deeply I shall commune with your efforts, and help, if I can, their success. No man ought ever to inscribe on his flag the sacred word "Liberty," who is not prepared to shake hands cordially with those, whoever they are, who will attach their names to the constitution of your association. Liberty may be the God-like gift of all races, of all nations, of every being who bears on his brow the stamp of MAN; or sink to the level of a narrow and mean self-interest, unworthy the tears of the good and the blood of the brave. I am yours because I believe in the unity of God; yours because I believe in the educability of the whole human race, and in a heavenly law of indefinite progression for all; yours because the fulfilment of this law implies the consciousness and the responsibility of the agent, and neither consciousness nor responsibility can exist in slavery; yours because I have devoted my life to the emancipation of my own country, and I would feel unequal to the task, a mere rebel, not an apostle of truth and justice, had I not felt from my earliest years that right and duty of revolting against lies and tyranny were grounded on a far higher sphere than that of the welfare of one single nation; that they must start from a belief in a principle, which will have, sooner or later, to be universally applied: *one God, one humanity, one law, one love from all for all.* Blessed be your efforts if they start from this high ground of a common faith—if you do not forget, whilst at work for the emancipation of the black race, the millions of white slaves suffering, struggling, expiring in Italy, in Poland, in Hungary, throughout all Europe—if you always remember that free men only can achieve the work of freedom, and that Europe's appeal for the abolition of slavery in other lands will not weigh all-powerful before God and men, whilst Europe herself shall be desecrated by arbitrary tyrannical power, by Czars, Emperors, and Popes.

Ever faithfully yours,
(Signed) JOSEPH MAZZINI.

THE CULTURE OF GIFTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—A few weeks ago I had occasion to dine at a *restaurant* in this city, and found myself seated next to a benevolent and ministerial-looking gentleman. After the customary inquiries about the latest intelligence from the "seat of war," and some other topics of a less important nature, my neighbour, who showed himself to be an intelligent and a pious man, gradually drew the conversation to religious subjects. He spoke of the present state of the religious world with much feeling, and mourned over the lack of *working material* so much complained of by most Christian churches, both in this country and in America. I inquired, what was the cause of this shortcoming of the church? His reply embraced several minor points, but the chief stress was laid upon the discrepancy between the mode of conducting *church meetings* in apostolic and modern times. "It is evident from the Scriptures," said my new friend "that the believers in early days met for mutual edification. They exhorted one another—comforted one another—admonished one another. The spiritual gifts of the members of the church were in this manner *educated* for public usefulness. The abilities of the male members were drawn out, and whilst the church met for mutual edification, instrumentality was being formed for service to the world at large. I have the charge of a church, and have endeavoured to conduct its meetings on the old-fashioned plan; at first there were difficulties to be overcome, which proved to be only of a temporary nature. On the whole, it has resulted in great service to us as a church, and given us the means of penetrating the districts around us by instrumentality which we formerly did not possess. I have young men in the church, with whom I have taken some pains, who can preach occasionally in my pulpit quite as acceptably as myself, and who form a band of evangelists, making themselves useful in various places which are not reached by the ordinary ministrations of the church."

I was much interested in the statement which this gentleman made. The above is but a brief summary of it. I think you, Sir, will agree with me, that if the above plan was more frequently adopted by ministers, we should not hear so many and such loud complaints as we do at present about half-filled colleges and vacant pulpits. Commending the example of this country pastor to all his "brethren,"

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
Manchester, May, 1854. JOSEPH WOOD.

Anniversary Meetings.

WORKING MEN'S EDUCATIONAL UNION.

The second annual meeting of the Working Men's Educational Union was held on Tuesday evening, at the King William-street Rooms, Strand. There was a large attendance. At six o'clock, and previous to the meeting of the Union, Benjamin Scott, Esq., delivered an admirable lecture on "Palestine and the Holy Places," illustrated by a Diorama on that subject, which was much admired. The lecture was listened to with marked attention, and called forth, at frequent intervals, expressions of cordial approval.

At seven o'clock, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., took the chair, and was supported by Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., the Hon. W. Cowper, M.P., Rear-Admiral Hope, Dr. Mortimer, Head Master of the City of London School, Dr. Hewlett, Dr. Angus, the Revs. Thomas Nolan, W. Brock, W. Todman, R. Ashton, B. R. Cowper, John Blackburn, W. Miall, W. Tyler; Joseph Payne, Esq., John Macgregor, Esq., R. B. Seeley, Esq., Henry Dunn, Esq., Henry Bateman, Esq., Wm. Locke, Esq., Timothy Tyrrell, Esq., Samuel Woods, Esq. After the singing of a hymn,

The CHAIRMAN addressed the meeting, enlarging on the advantages of the institution, and the benefits it had already conferred upon the working classes, and the indefatigable labours of Mr. Scott. It supplied the working classes with a more rational recreation than they were accustomed to enjoy, as the following would illustrate:—

We received this morning, in a letter from a town in Bucks, a copy of an announcement of certain amusements which have been got up "under the distinguished patronage of Lord ——," who is also Chairman of Quarter Sessions. It is stated in the programme that there will be *a donkey race* for a new hat (laughter)—*catching a pig*, the pig's ears and tail to be well shaved and soaped, the man holding the pig by ear or tail to have one pound (laughter)—*rolls and treacle*—boys to bob for treacled rolls, first prize 10s., &c.; *grinning through a horse collar*—the funniest face to have half a pound of tobacco, the ugliest face a quarter of a pound—faces to show to four sides of the company. (Renewed and prolonged laughter.) This is the sort of amusement which, in the year 1854, is being provided for the working people of a village in England! (Hear, hear.) I have no doubt that the motives of those who are at the head of such a proceeding are good. They desire, no doubt, to give the working classes the means of recreation; but we certainly may question the propriety of such a species of amusement being given to them. (Hear, hear.) It is my conviction, moreover, that the mass of the working classes would be far more satisfied with such a lecture as we have had to-night, than with such sports as those to which I have referred. (Hear, hear.) Now, in this very village, a Working Men's Union has been established, and the following sample of lectures given, attended by 300 people. Each lecture will enable you to judge for yourselves which plan of amusement is most likely to elevate and refine the working-classes.* A correspondent reports:—"Sixteen lectures, well attended, have been given by the branch Union here on the following subjects:—the Microscope, the Human Eye, the Manners of the Orientals, Australia, Labour and Wages, Popular Superstitions, Electricity, Light, Heat, North American Indians, Mountains, Missionary Scenes, John Milton, John Howard." (Cheers.) At all events, we are trying to raise the standard of amusement, and I have no doubt that we shall succeed to a most delightful extent, if efficiently supported. We are much encouraged by the progress which has been made during the last year. No less than 3,336 lectures have been given, and attended by half a million of people in the country districts—just proving what I say, that the people are most anxious to listen to such lectures as those which we have to give them. (Hear.)

The sales of the Union had considerably increased, but still £500 was wanting to complete the capital of £2,500. They ought to be thankful for the liberality which had already been manifested by the public to aid in this experiment. But it was now no longer a doubtful thing; there was manifest blessing of God

on this effort, and he trusted they would very speedily be put in the receipt of the funds which were wanting. (Cheers.)

Mr. SCOTT then read extracts from the Report, which stated that "the demand for diagrams has continued unabated, and the committee have published diagrams on the following subjects during the year:—The Mechanical Powers—the Human Eye, and Optics—the Telescope—the Microscope—Astronomy, viz., the Clusters and Nebulæ revealed by the Telescope—Missionary Scenes—Australia and Australian Life—Oriental Manners and Customs—the Comet of 1853—the Progress of Locomotion in Great Britain. The committee are engaged in publishing a new series of illustrations on Nineveh, illustrative of more recent discoveries. Produce of sales of diagrams have increased from £344 to £1,030; and 18,797 diagrams had been sold in all up to the close of the year 1853. Correspondents and others had reported lectures given in connexion with the Union, or aided by their diagrams, to the number of 3,336, attended by nearly half a million of persons. The plan of the Union had been tried in more than 300 places. Extracts from correspondents' reports were rapidly glanced at, illustrating the following points: that the plan had been most successful, in several places, in drawing men from debasing pursuits and pleasures, in promoting attendance on public worship, in retaining hold upon adults who have been taught at Sunday-schools, in aiding school teachers for whose use the diagrams were not originally designed, in promoting the formation of evening and other classes, and, above all, in promoting sympathy between class and class, the want of which has been so greatly deplored as an acknowledged evil. The militia had been lectured to in various places: the lecturers aided by the diagrams of the Union. Military officers at several stations had bought diagrams, with the laudable object of instructing the men placed under their care. Diagrams had been twice within a year forwarded to a military station in the Ionian Islands for this purpose. Open-air lectures, with diagrams, had been tried, and found successful, in country places. Branch Associations had been formed at various places in London and the provinces. An affiliated branch has been formed at the Cape of Good Hope. The following rooms had been used for lectures:—Rooms of Working Men's Societies, Mechanics Institutes, and Literary Societies, 371; National School-rooms, 239; other Church School-rooms, 284; Presbyterian School-rooms, 29; Independent School-rooms, 173; British and Foreign School-rooms, 51; Baptist School-rooms, 44; Wesleyan School-rooms, 27; Society of Friends'-rooms, 15; Sunday School-rooms, various, 56; Infant School-rooms, 67; Ragged School-rooms, 12; Young Men's Rooms, 36; Town Halls, Market-rooms, Corn Exchanges, and Private School-rooms, 161; Open-air Lectures, 3. A large increase in the use of Church School-rooms was observable, arising from the use made of the diagrams by the Church Missionary Society, who had consequently given an order for publishing a new series on missionary operations, agreeing to take at least 3,000 copies. Diagrams had also been used by the Baptist and Moravian Missionary Societies to a limited extent. The Report then glanced at the local operations commenced at the King William-street Rooms, Westminster. More disposition had been shown to attend the lectures given to the working-classes than to those provided for the more educated class; but the plan had not yet been fully or fairly tried in its entireness; it was therefore premature to anticipate its results. The library and reading-rooms would be speedily fitted up, the money being now forthcoming. Libraries had increased in connexion with societies aided by the Union; 18,967 volumes were reported last year; the number had risen to 35,573. Mutual instruction classes had also increased, and, in many places, were found to succeed well. The income of the Union had increased under the heads of annual subscriptions and sales, the former from £128 15s. 6d. to £179 7s. 6d.; sales from £344 9s. 8d., to £1,030 1s. 9d.; £602 4s. 6d. had been collected in the year on the capital account; but £537 14s. 2d. was still deficient to make up the estimated capital. The committee earnestly implored their friends to exert themselves to furnish that sum without delay. The expenditure had been:—Publishing, £1,321 4s. 7d.; printing, £111 11s. 4d.; salaries, £271 5s.; rent, &c., £135 8s. 8d.; advertising, £61 7s. 8d.; postages and parcels, £59 17s. 8d; books, £2 10s. 9d.; furniture, £11 1s. 4d.; public meetings and deputations, £42 3s. 2d.; making a total of £2,017 10s. 2d. All the available funds of the Union were fully engaged.

Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, in moving the adoption of the report, gave expression to his interest in this admirable institution, and warmly applauded the earnest efforts of the gentlemen who had commenced the undertaking—men not in easy circumstances, and who were, therefore, to be the more commended for what they had done. As an instance of the activity of religious and philanthropic zeal, he was happy to say, that scarcely a day passed over him upon which he did not receive letters informing him of the establishment and progress of educational institutions, ragged-schools, and so forth; and inviting him to render assistance by presiding at public meetings or otherwise. (Hear, hear.) He also gave an instance of the beneficial working of the institution:—

A letter was sent to me from a number of individuals at Kensal-green, stating that they were about to get up a meeting with the view of forming a Working Men's Association in that neighbourhood; and they wished me to be present, and to render what assistance I might be able to the project. I could not go to the meeting, but I had some correspondence with the originators of the movement, and a number of them waited upon me; and I found that they were men in the middle class of life, and who had to work hard for their own living; and they could therefore but ill spare the time and labour necessary for the improvement of their fellow-creatures by lectures, mutual instruction classes, reading-rooms, and the like. I said to those gentlemen, "You are come to me at the very moment when I am able to give you the advice which will materially serve you, I think, in carrying out your object." I then mentioned to them the existence and nature of this association, and recommended them to purchase some of the diagrams published by the union. They took the advice, purchased the diagrams and the heads of lectures, and went to work with them. (Hear, hear.) They wrote to me some time afterwards, saying that so valuable had they found the means employed, that an impulse was at once given to the movement, and the new association became very speedily permanently established. (Cheers.) But this is not a solitary case; similar results, I believe, are witnessed wherever the diagrams of the Union are introduced. This association, therefore, goes to work in a most admirable manner, by putting into the hands of those who are anxious to do something for the welfare of those around them the means of doing so. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. WILLIAM COWPER seconded the resolution. He hoped that the good example which his friend Mr. Scott had set them in the self-sacrifice with which he had embarked in that work would be followed. He hoped this method of conveying in-truction through the means of amusement might be the opening of a new sphere of action, and present a new phase, by which greater efforts might be made to civilize, refine, purify, and elevate the working classes of this metropolis and the country at large.

The Rev. Dr. MORTIMER, Head Master of the City of London School, in the absence of Sir Culling Eardley, moved the second resolution:—

That public philanthropy has been hitherto so much engrossed with efforts for the benefit of the young, that the condition of the adult population has been comparatively overlooked; and this meeting, therefore, learns with satisfaction, that the Working Men's Educational Union has succeeded, to some extent, in arousing attention to this fact, and in supplying efficient means towards the physical, intellectual, and spiritual elevation of the labouring classes.

It had been asked, and asked with reason, how it happened that, after so many efforts had been made in the cause of education, the apparent results were so very few. He believed the answer was, that they had no effectual means of attaching to them the youth who had been in their schools, and of maintaining a superintendence over them. Now, if this Society only answered that one purpose, giving a point of concentration to them which would bring them back and reassociate them with their former instructors, bring them together for some good purpose of self-discipline and self-instruction, it would have answered a good end. He then dealt upon the importance of outbidding the places of amusement which now offered their blandishments to the working classes—offer that which is wholesome and profitable, instead of that which is injurious and demoralising.

It is my lot to pass every Sunday evening through the worst part of the city of Westminster, and sometimes to go the same road on a Sunday morning; and one cannot help being struck with this particular feature in the population that you meet there—the utter listlessness of the inhabitants. You will see them, in the morning or the evening, standing around the same gin-shop or the same public-house. They seem to have grown to the place—to vegetate there; and they look as if they had not moved ten feet during the day, wandering to and fro, drinking and smoking, just in the same place. Now, what an important thing it is to teach these men to think—to give them a starting-point from which to raise themselves. Now, this institution meets such needs; and as facts are always more useful than any guesses at results, I will just give you a fact which came to my own knowledge. A friend of mine is rector in one of the worst parishes in England—a parish containing a population of 8,000 or 9,000 persons—comprising the very worst classes of a very large town. Soon after the establishment of this society, I wrote to him, and called his attention to its operations, and advised him to get diagrams published by the society, and see what the effect would be. That minister had already an institution open where he preached and engaged with the people in religious exercises. He followed my advice, and opened a house where he has been giving lectures, and he told me, about six weeks ago, that he had been obliged, in consequence of the throng of working-men to these lectures, to exclude all persons under the age of fifteen. (Cheers.) The attendance upon the lectures, he says, has increased, and the attendance of persons upon his Sunday ministrations has made many, who never entered a place of worship before, regular church-goers. (Hear, hear.)

JOSEPH PAYNE, Esq., in a very humourous speech, seconded the resolution, and concluded by repeating some excellent verses (the 500th piece given by him on similar occasions) entitled, "The Two Scotts, Walter and Benjamin," which were received with much cheering.

The Rev. THOMAS NOLAN moved the third resolution, to the following effect:—

That the chief obstacle to the elevation of the condition of the humbler portion of society arises from a want of sympathy between the various classes, and especially between employers and the employed. That the plan of the Working Men's Educational Union appears to have been happily conceived with reference to this acknowledged evil, and affords scope for the exhibition of practical sympathy on the part of the wealthy and educated class towards their less-favoured bretheren.

The Rev. WILLIAM BROCK seconded the resolution. Having been in the habit of coming to this room, both in the afternoon and evening, he could testify—although he could not write such lines as Mr. Payne had written five hundred times, and the best the last—to their strict correctness and absolute propriety as descriptive of what Mr. Scott is doing. (Cheers.)

He did not believe that the working-men of this metropolis, or of the country at large, were so entirely gone from the influence of all Christian efforts as there were some who seemed anxious to make it appear. (Hear, hear.) Whenever they were treated as they ought to be treated, they responded most generously. (Hear, hear.) He had had again and again opportunities of putting to the test what the working-men think and feel towards the ministers of religion and Christian people in general; and he could say this, that he never made one step towards them without their moving two steps towards him. (Hear, hear.) He had never held out a finger on any occasion when they in return did not hold out their whole hand. (Cheers.) He had been of late solicited by a number of working-men in one of the most degraded districts of London to deliver some lectures to them; and, whenever he had done so in a room in the district, the place was crowded. Christian people might take heart from indications of that kind, which did not go for much, perhaps, in themselves considered, but were nevertheless hopeful. (Cheers.) All things could not be set right in a day; and when we remembered that the evils which exist have been accumulating for centuries, and that there are those even now who are constantly pandering to the worst passions of human nature, we must hope against hope, and not think that all is to be given up for lost. (Hear.) If they did not grow weary in well-doing, nor faint under their efforts to instruct and elevate the people, depend upon it that a rich harvest would ultimately be gathered in. He would say, let the teachers of religion talk about it in a tone and manner wholly unprofessional. (Hear, hear,) Sometimes there had been a mistake here; they had talked about religion in tones and phraseology which most effectually impeded the very object they had sought to promote. When the work was gone about in the manner of Mr. Scott, he could not doubt that there would be witnessed the most gratifying results. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. B. H. COWPER moved the fourth resolution:—

That this meeting, while rejoicing in the progress already effected, learns nevertheless with regret, that the comparatively small capital of £2,500, asked for at the founding of the Union, has not yet been contributed, and pledges itself, by individual exertion, to obtain speedily the requisite amount, placing the committee in a position to carry forward efficiently the important work which has been so auspiciously commenced.

After a lengthened acquaintance with the working classes of a great town, he could testify that their interest only required to be excited, by providing for them such lectures as those instituted by this Union, in order to secure their attention, and to do them a lasting benefit, by producing in their minds a taste for moral, intellectual, and religious pleasures.

The Rev. Dr. HEWLETT seconded the resolution; and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the National Temperance Society was held on Thursday evening, in the large room, Exeter Hall. The chair was taken shortly after half-past six—in the unavoidable absence, from illness, of Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart.—by JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., of Birmingham. On the platform we observed Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., M.P., W. Janson, Esq., J. Meredith, Esq., Edmund Fry, Esq., R. D. Alexander, Esq., and many of the most active promoters of the temperance cause in London and the provinces. A melody was sung by the Choral Society of the Good Samaritan Hall, entitled, "Welcome to our Temperance Meeting;" after which the Rev. G. MANSFIELD, A.M., read the 14th chapter of the Romans.

The Secretary, the Rev. DAWSON BURNS, then read a summary of the annual report, consisting of three parts—a narrative of the committee's proceedings and those of kindred bodies in the United Kingdom—a comparative estimate of the *result* of total abstinence efforts in this country, and the agencies, both favourable and adverse, at present in operation—and a comprehensive review of the progress and position of the temperance movement in our colonial and foreign lands. Under the first division, it was stated that eight monthly meetings had been held, various publications issued, including five numbers of a select series of tracts, 1,000 copies of each of which had been circulated through the post, and the *Temperance Chronicle*, a monthly journal, of which about 120,000 copies had been published—supplies of publications presented to theological institutions; seven Independent, in five of which two-thirds of the students are abstainers; six Baptist, numbering forty-two abstainers out of ninety-eight students; two Wesleyan, reporting twenty-five abstainers; and one English Presbyterian—evidence obtained for Mr. Villiers' committee of inquiry into licensing—a circular on juvenile reformatories forwarded to each member of the Birmingham Conference—a Ladies' Association assisted—efforts made to obtain the legal prohibition of the traffic in strong drink during Sunday—illustrated temperance placards erected on shop-boards and advertised in railway carriages—gratuitous grants of tracts, &c., awarded—the circulation of Dr. Carpenter's Prize Essay promoted—a voluminous correspondence carried on—domiciliary visitation carried out—newspapers supplied with occasional articles of general interest, and reports of meetings, &c. &c. The report, in conclusion, quoted the language of the Rev. William Jay, who expressed in 1839, and repeated some years later, his "very firm and powerful conviction that, next to the Gospel, God could not bless the human race so much as by the abolition of all intoxicating spirits." The revenue of the society from April 12th to May, 13th, 1854, was £1,178 18s., and the expenditure £1,129 13s., leaving a balance of £49 5s., not taking into account the liabilities, which were more than equal to this amount.

At the conclusion of the report, the secretary read a letter from Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., stating his opinion that the time had arrived for pressing the subject of our national intemperance (its causes, extent, and remedies) upon the national legislature; from Sir W. A'Beckett, late Chief Justice of Victoria, conveying his great regret at unavoidable absence; from Rev. T. Brotherton, A.M., missionary of the Gospel Propagation Society in Madras, observing—"I have been a total abstainer for nearly fifteen years in India, and feel convinced that to this, under the Divine blessing, my uninterrupted health in this country has been owing;" and, from Edward Baines, Esq., encouraging the society to continued exertions for closing public-houses on Sunday, and offering congratulations on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget.

The CHAIRMAN, in a brief address, dwelt on the special importance of an abstinence example, by which,

much more than by precept, the temperance cause could be assisted. As an instance of this he referred to a family in which the father had done so, and the rest of his family, some of whom had acquired intemperate habits, had done the same. Mr. Sturge also adverted to the great value of ladies' temperance associations, and their influence on the training of the young, to whom he looked as the chief hope of the temperance reformation. With all our national advantages we were fearfully subject to drunkenness, and in this respect had little to boast over other nations—even the Russians themselves. All the time he was in Russia he did not see so many intoxicated persons as he had seen in London in one day. [Yet intemperance is, according to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, one of the two great curses of the Russian peasantry, serfdom being the other.]

J. Silk Buckingham, Esq., moved the first resolution :—

That on a survey of the present position of the Temperance cause, this meeting offers its grateful acknowledgments to the Divine source of all good; and encourages the true friends of this great enterprise throughout the world, to labour unitedly, hopefully, and energetically, in its behalf.

Mr. Buckingham began by referring to the progress that had been made. Persons who once recommended the giving up intoxicating liquors were considered crazy—now the question was better understood. This cause had made more rapid progress than any other since the Norman conquest. Abroad it wore a still more encouraging aspect. Wherever the sun shone there was a Temperance society. The testimony borne to it was everywhere the same. At the north, and at the torrid regions of the globe, alike it was found out that people were better for abstinence. Whole regiments had tried the experiment, and the result was, in them the deaths were not one-fourth so numerous as in others, where the rations were served, and intemperance prevailed. Teetotal soldiers enjoyed an advantage over moderate drinking ones, in the reduction of mortality one-half. The question was, how could they stem the evil. The first thing was example; the next was money. They ought to part with that readily. A teetotaller saved a good deal of money by his custom, and he might give 10 per cent. of his savings to the cause. They wanted it to circulate the *Temperance Chronicle* and tracts, which did more good than public meetings; to which people often went principally from motives of curiosity. Mr. Buckingham concluded with describing the effect of the Maine Law—the policy of introducing of which into England was, he said, an open question with the temperance society—and, as a lamentable contrast, the rumoured intention of the Board of Trade to allow, in spite of the prohibitory clause in the charter, the sale of wine and beer in the Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

The Rev. Dr. Burns, in seconding this resolution, referred to some pointless jokes which *Punch* had been lately playing off; and in rapidly sketching the career of the temperance cause compared it to a variety of objects in nature and art; all illustrating its marvellous progress, and auspicing its ultimate and complete success. The necessity of labour was strongly urged, and such labour as, in the words of the resolution, was in the fullest sense "energetic"—so doubly important in this energetic age—"united," and "hopeful." A poem embodying these sentiments was then read by Dr. Burns, who resumed his seat amidst loud and general applause.

The resolution having been carried, the Rev. G Mansfield, A.M., incumbent of St. Peter's, Saffronhill, moved the second resolution :—

That while rejoicing in the large amount of religious influence incorporated with the Temperance movement, and viewing with peculiar satisfaction the assistance rendered by superintendents and teachers of Sunday-schools in the formation of Bands of Hope, this meeting cannot but deplore that the unreserved support of the entire body of Christian ministers and Church members is not yet extended to the Temperance Reformation, as a powerful auxiliary to the progress of religion, and as deriving its highest sanction from the precepts and spirit of the Gospel.

As a minister of the Church of England he was glad to take a part with men whose object was the rescue of the drunkard and the glory of God. Mr. Mansfield then referred at some length to the proof afforded in his own district, that the temperance cause was conducted in a Christian spirit and for the promotion of Christian objects. It was true few ministers of the Established Church, comparatively speaking, had joined the temperance society, but he advised charity and patience; many he believed were on the way, and the best method of bringing them over was by setting the claims of the movement fairly and justly before them.

The Rev. William Landels, of Birmingham, entered into an explanation of the mistake which *Punch* had committed, the writers for which he supposed had not seen the correction which had appeared in the newspaper (the *Birmingham Journal*) where the error had first appeared. He had been accused of calling all who sold intoxicating liquors "licensed banditti," and of consigning them to "eternal damnation;" the truth being, that part of what he said had reference to the effect of the traffic, and the other and more personal part to the keepers of gin-palaces and other places where the young were tempted to their destruction. The language he had applied to *these* he could not—he dared not retract. The duty of the press—if legislation was not applied to these parties—was to hold them up to the odium and indignation of mankind. Advancing to the general subject, Mr. Landels discussed two prevalant objections—the first, that the temperance movement was Quixotic. Was it so?—what then was Christianity itself? But the statement was not true, and could not at any rate be gracefully adduced by those who would not do what they might to render the movement perfectly triumphant. The other objection was, that the Gospel could alone cure the moral maladies of men. This he admitted; but was it not a fact that the Gospel did not preserve its subjects who drank freely from the intoxicating influence of what they took? and was it not also a fact, that there was no hope of the Gospel reaching the intellects and hearts of myriads until they had been weaned from the love of intoxicating drinks? Hence the necessity of destroying drunkenness for the sake of the Gospel—so that, instead of any opposition existing between the temperance movement and religion, the one was the very means which the friends of the other ought to use in order to acquire for religion a vantage ground and a scope which has not yet been gained. (Cheers.)

The collection was then made, and a melody, "Truth is Spreading," sung by the choir.

The Rev. J. B. Walker, of the United States, moved the third resolution :—

That this meeting cordially sympathises with the efforts now making in North America, in British India, and by the United Kingdom Alliance, to abolish the direful evils resulting from the legalised traffic in strong drink, and would earnestly invite all abstainers to consider the importance of extending to such efforts their individual and immediate aid; at the same time, this meeting cannot regard organised endeavours for the suppression of intemperance by legislative means as in any degree diminishing the duty of all persons, especially the professors of religion, to adopt the principles of Total Abstinence as a personal and voluntary rule.

Mr. G. Lomax seconded the resolution, which was carried.

J. Taylor, Esq., moved the fourth resolution :—

That believing the Sunday traffic in intoxicating drinks to be an evil peculiarly aggravated and utterly indefensible, this meeting cordially adopts the petition to Parliament now read, for prohibiting the sale of fermented and distilled liquors during the whole of Sunday, and empowers its Chairman to affix his signature officially thereto.

W. Cash, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Secretary stated that Robert Stark, Esq., had been appointed to represent the Scottish Temperance League at this meeting.

A vote of thanks to that body was warmly accorded; and another vote of thanks, to the Chairman, having been also cordially adopted, the meeting concluded at a few minutes past ten o'clock.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Church Rates, for the abolition of, 423,
Oaths Bill, against, 25.
————in favour of, 1.
Ocean Penny Postage, in favour of, 3.
Public Houses, for closing on Sunday, 82.
Universities, for opening, 13.
Church Rates (No. 1.) Bill, against, 1.
Conventual Establishments, against interference with, 1.
Reformatory Institutions, in favour of, 2.
Mortmain Bill, for alteration of, 4.
Poor Law (Ireland), for inquiry into, 3.
Education (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 1.
————————against, 2.
Gaols, against endowment of Romish Priests in, 2.
Malt Duty, against increase of, 1.
Maynooth, against any further Grant, 2.
Paper Duty, for repeal of, 1.
Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Bill, for alteration of, 2.
Accidents in Coal Mines, for preventing, 1.
Borough and County Police, against consolidation of, 1.
Civil Bills (Ireland) Act, for amendment of, 2.
Friendly Societies Bill, against, 2.
Parliamentary Representation, in favour of, 1.
Ballot, in favour of, 1.
Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 3.
Factories, for limiting the hours of labour in, 7.
Fire Insurance Duty, for reduction of, 1.
Medical Practitioners Bill, for alteration of, 1.
Kingston-upon-Hull Bribery Prevention Bill, against, 4.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Exchequer Bonds (£6,000,000) Bill.
Stamp Duties Bill.
Jurors and Juries (Ireland) Bill.
Customs Duties (Sugar and Spirits) Bill.
New Forest Bill.
Public Revenue, and Consolidated Fund Charges Bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Medical Graduates (University of London) Bill.
Cruelty to Animals Bill.
Consolidated Fund (£8,000,000) Bill.
Court of Common Law (Ireland) Bill.
Income Tax (No. 2.) Bill.
Public Libraries Bill.
Sheriff and Sheriff Clerk of Chancery (Scotland) Bill.
Exchequer Bonds (£6,000,000) Bill.
Customs Duties (Sugar) Bill.
Ecclesiastical Courts Bill.
Stamp Duties Bill.
Dublin Carriages Bill.
Court of Common Law (Ireland) Bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Middlesex Industrial Schools Bill.
Industrial and Provident Societies' Bill.
Church Building Acts Amendment Bill.
Consolidated Fund (£8,000,000) Bill.
Public Statues Bill.
Drainage of Lands Bill.
Reformatory Schools (Scotland No. 2.) Bill.
Excise Duties Bill.
Income Tax (No. 2.) Bill.
Consolidated Fund (£8,000,000) Bill.
Oxford University Bill.
Excise Duties Bill.
Public Libraries Bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME, AND PASSED.

Middlesex Industrial Schools Bill.
Gaming Houses Bill.
Valuation of Lands (Scotland) Bill.
Sheriff and Sheriff Clerk of Chancery (Scotland) Bill.
Public Statues Bill.

DEBATES.

THE PROPERTY OF NUNS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Whiteside's Property Disposal Bill was resumed in the House of Commons on Wednesday. The object of this measure, it will be recollected, is to prevent women who have professed themselves nuns from executing deeds or other instruments for the disposal of property in favour of the conventual establishments of which they have become members.

Mr. Malins supported the motion, arguing that the objections to the bill were committee objections. He was disposed to think that it would be best to revert to the old principle of the law, that ladies professing themselves nuns should be considered civilly dead. We had to legislate for a population of various creeds, and must endeavour to do what was best for the interests of all. He also contended, that in the previous portion of the debate Lord Palmerston had adopted the principle, and only urged committee objections.

Sir John Young, in opposition to the bill, characterized the debate as one of those unhappy polemical discussions which he had hoped would have been put an end to by the withdrawal of the bill. Lord Palmerston, he said, had, on mature consideration, come to the conclusion that the bill was offensive, and would be inoperative; and, speaking for himself, Sir John objected to the bill as infringing the great principle of complete toleration.

The hon. and learned member for Wallingford had, some weeks ago, in the early part of his speech, stated that the noble lord the Home Secretary had been induced to alter his opinion with regard to the bill because fifty or sixty Roman Catholic members had at different times given their support to the Government. Now, he believed that there were not more than thirty-six Roman Catholic members in the House (hear, hear), and more than one-half of those were on every occasion found in the same lobby with the hon. and learned gentleman. (Hear, hear.) Upon this point his opinion was directly at issue with that of the hon. and learned gentleman, for he did not believe political support was generally to be obtained by favouring Roman Catholics. He believed that whoever gave them support, however modified, ran great risks politically speaking. (Hear, hear.) There were 551 members returned to Parliament by Great Britain, among whom there was found only one Roman Catholic, who was returned by overbearing territorial influence, in spite of his being a Roman Catholic. Although he believed there were many Roman Catholic gentlemen of rank and property who were not inferior in all the requisites for making good representatives to many of the gentlemen who sat in this House, yet not a single constituency had been found to return any of them. Political support was more likely to be obtained by taking the other side—by riding the Protestant horse and declaiming against the growth of Popery. (Hear.) In addition to these objections which had been urged against the bill, that it was defective, and that it was exceptional in its legislation, there remained yet another which he individually entertained. Speaking for himself, not for the whole of the Government, he thought that this bill, and legislation of a similar kind, was a violation of the principles of Protestantism, and an infringement of the principles of toleration. (Hear, hear.) Looking at the position occupied by this country, he thought that we ought to afford an example of complete toleration, and that by our so doing the Protestant interest could suffer nothing.

Sir J. Pakington protested against the opinion expressed by Sir J. Young, that this was a polemical question; it ought not to be regarded as one of religion. He was disposed to support the bill, but still felt the force of the objection, that possibly Mr. Whiteside had not adopted the best manner of remedying the evil.

Mr. Hadfield opposed the bill as most offensive to a large portion of the loyal inhabitants of this kingdom. It was of a piece, however, with all the attempted legislation of a certain party in that House. They constantly came forward with propositions the most offensive to every denomination of religion except that of the Church of England itself, and they did it all, forsooth, with feelings of the utmost respect and esteem, It was a sectarian feeling which occasioned the introduction of these measures, which were perfectly uncalled for and unjustified. The Roman Catholics asked nothing from us, and we had no right to interfere with their religious or scholastic establishments.

Much debate followed, and many members engaged in it on either side; until the Speaker, at the usual hour on Wednesdays, cut short the discussion, and the debate again stood adjourned.

THE OATHS BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of the Oaths Bill, on Thursday, Sir Frederick Thesiger moved that it be read a second time that day six months. Sir Frederick referred to the petitions—comprising 106 signatures in favour of the bill, 69 for the alteration of the oaths, 60,171 against the bill—as proof that public feeling was adverse; and he ascribed Lord John Russell's annual effort to an unconsidered pledge which he had given on coming into conjunction as member for the City of London with Baron Rothschild. The present measure is inconsistent, Sir Frederick argued, with the previous authorities on Lord John's own side; Lord John himself having moved to prevent Mr. Salomons from taking his seat until he should have taken the oath of abjuration, two solemn decisions in the Court of Exchequer having declared the oath essential to the admission of a member. Yet in 1854 Lord John has intimated that Baron Rothschild might be introduced by a resolution of the House. Clearly, therefore, arrayed against its own authorities, Lord John does not think a bill necessary for the admission of Jews. What, then, can be the object of the present bill? Evidently, it is intended and calculated solely for the benefit of Roman Catholics, and of those members of the Established Church who are restless on the question of supremacy. Sir Frederick entered at great length, but not with great closeness, upon the history of the oath as it now stands, in order to show that it is necessary to stem that Papal aggression which Lord John Russell was obliged to resist: that it had been fixed in its present form by mutual concessions; that Lord John, like a condottiere of Italy, fighting on any side, had himself resisted the attempt made in 1849 to disturb the settlement, but now, notwithstanding the constant and persevering encroachments of a church which has learned much and forgotten nothing, Lord John endeavours in the new oath, with its maimed and mutilated form of abjuration, to realize the idea of Caligula, by including as many points of the constitution as possible so as to cut them off at one blow.

Mr. Gladstone replied with equal length, but with more closeness. Apologizing for a superergoation, he vindicated Lord John against the charge of adopting

the measure after his conjunction with Baron Rothschild. He quoted a speech made by Lord John, some time back, to show that for a long series of years he had spoken and voted on a similar motion; and that in 1846, the year before Baron Rothschild's election, Lord John promised a deputation of Jews that he would take up the matter. Sir Frederick Thesiger had said, that if there were deficiency in his advocacy there were yet behind him divers stout and ablebodied men who would supply his deficiency. Were those stout and ablebodied persons the right honourable gentleman the member for Buckinghamshire, the noble lord the member for King's Lynn, or the Solicitor-General under Sir Frederick's Attorney-Generalship, who were at daggers drawn with him on the question of Jewish disabilities? Sir Frederick complained that there would be a maimed and mutilated acknowledgement of supremacy. Now, in the bill there is no such maimed and mutilated acknowledgement, for there is no acknowledgement of supremacy at all. In fact, the oath called the oath of supremacy does not assert the supremacy of the Crown. [Here Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE observed that Mr. Gladstone was evidently referring to the oath of allegiance, and not to that of supremacy.] Mr. GLADSTONE begged the honourable and learned gentleman's pardon; for he *was* referring, distinctly and solely, to the oath of supremacy. But if such men as Sir Frederick Thesiger and Mr. Phillimore were misled, what must be the Cimmerian darkness of others? In fact, the positive supremacy declared and intended in the oath of Elizabeth, was altered in the reign of William and Mary to a negative supremacy—a declaration denying the rights and encroachments of the Pope. The positive supremacy of the Crown it would now be impossible to declare, not only because Roman Catholics deny it, but still more because it is denied by Protestant Dissenters and by Scotch Presbyterians. Combating Mr. Whiteside's fear that the 37th article of the Church of England—asserting the supremacy of the King, and denying that of the Pope in very plain and direct language, might be twisted in a "non-natural" sense, Mr. Gladstone asserted that article has never been so strained: but he showed that the oath might be twisted; that the strength of this country and the rights of the Crown consist not in oaths and declarations, but in the attachment and fidelity of the people; and that the more we blot out all those matters of strife, the sooner will be consolidated a firm and sure basis for the interests of the country. To prove that oaths cannot bind men who think the obligation inconsistent with their duty, he showed how Protestant themselves, who ought to be precluded from giving votes that affect the property of the Church, had the other day proposed to deal with it by extinction. Was that a lawful vote? [Mr. DRUMMOND: "No."] Yet, so thought the 129 members who voted on Tuesday night. The idea which Sir Frederick had ascribed to Caligula belonged to the more savage monster Nero: but Mr. Gladstone felt thankful to Lord John for having bundled up these oaths and given them one neck, so that they might be destroyed at a blow.

Mr. NAPIER opposed the bill. He appealed to the Bill of Rights, which includes the oath of supremacy, as marking that the object of the oath is a part of the constitution. On the same side were Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, Mr. NEWDEGATE, and Mr. H. T. LIDDELL. The bill was supported by Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, as conceding to the people the right to choose their own representatives.

Mr. MIALL said that the course of the discussion reminded him of an anecdote he had heard of the Rev. Robert Hall, who made an observation in regard to some friend of his, of profound erudition, but of little sense, that he had piled so many books upon his head that his brains could not move. He thought that the House had had far too much legal and historical lore heaped upon it in reference to this question, and that common sense had not been sufficiently at work. The bill now upon the table of the House had caused him to ask himself the following question—whether, by doing away with the oaths to which it related, we should expose our Protestantism or our Christianity to danger, and whether those oaths could be regarded as any security for the Protestant and Christian character of the people of Great Britain? The members of the House professing Dissenting opinions had been appealed to with particular emphasis by the hon. and learned member for Stamford, who admonished them to beware of following the noble lord on this occasion, and to consider whether the movement made by this bill were not intended for the benefit of the Roman Catholics, and for those members of the English Church who were separated from Roman Catholicism by a thin wall of partition. He wished to inform the hon. and learned gentleman, that the conduct of Dissenters in this matter would be entirely guided by the question whether the proposition was or was not a reasonable and just one. (Hear, hear.) If it were considered by them a reasonable one, and if it fell in with their sense of justice, it was not because it would be one of relief to Roman Catholics or to Jews, or even to those who were described by the hon. and learned member as separated from Romanism by a thin wall of partition, that they could refuse to agree to it. (Hear, hear.) The Dissenters might have—indeed they had—very great differences of opinion both in respect of religious doctrine and ecclesiastical discipline with all these bodies; but that difference would not prevent them from doing an act of justice to other religionists, nor from extending any relief which they might actually require. The oaths taken at the table of the House had been referred to by the hon. and learned member for Stamford, as constituting the essential defence of the Protestant institutions of this country, and he had called them, to quote his own expression, "the bulwarks of our Protestant institutions." The whole course of argument taken on the other side, would seem to indicate, that what were called our Protestant institutions were in danger from the aggressions of the Pope of Rome, and that these oaths constituted the only security against them.

Sir, continued the hon member, if the Protestant institutions of the country are in any danger—if it be true, which I for one do not believe, that the spiritual power of a foreign ecclesiastic is on the increase in this kingdom, you will not avert that danger, nor check that increase, by the agency of political restrictions. (Hear, hear.) The exaction of discriminative oaths at the table of this House appears to me—to speak of it in the mildest terms—a clumsy mode of obstructing a religious influence. You might about as wisely expect to guard yourself against the suggestions of the Evil One by closing all your doors and windows, or to keep your thoughts from wandering by putting yourself under a glass case. (Hear, and laughter.) These oaths, on which some hon. members rely so confidently for the security of Protestantism, seem to me to be not merely a clumsy expedient, but positively inconsistent with the end you profess to have in view. In all contests much, very much, depends upon a judicious selection of your battle field. I should suppose no man in his senses, would think of displaying the peculiar merits of a squadron of cavalry on board of ship. (Laughter.) Now the genius of Protestantism—that, in fact, which is commonly set forth as its essential and vital principle—is the right of private judgment. (Hear, hear.) And it does seem difficult to believe that the potency, the persuasiveness, and the spiritual worth of that right may be best exemplified and secured, by putting it in fetters, and attempting to restrict its exercise within the narrow limits of an oath. (Hear, hear.) But I go further. I contend, that in resorting to such methods as these for the defence of Protestantism, your proceedings are not only idle and ineffective, but they tend to create or intensify the very mischief which it is your object to prevent. (Hear, hear.) It is not two centuries ago that the people of this country believed in witchcraft, and, Sir, as you know, Church and State, religion and law, exerted their utmost power to crush it. It is not too much to say, that so long as penal statutes were put in force against witchcraft, so long it continued to be a malignant power. Without any external existence, it nevertheless took a fearful hold upon men's imaginations. The bloom of many a cheek withered away beneath the glance of an evil eye—and the muttered curse of a wrinkled and ill-natured crone was often followed by physical convulsions. And as long as our forefathers trusted in statutes and penalties, in fire and faggots, or even in incantations and horse-shoes, to protect them against witchcraft, so long they continued to be troubled by it. The remedy to which they had recourse kept up in their minds a false notion of the evil against which they had to guard. (Hear, hear.) The true laws of matter and of mind were left unstudied, and even great men fell a prey to morbid fancies. Sir, in my conscience I believe that all your political efforts to withstand or put down Popery produce precisely the same effect. (Hear, hear.) The true power of the Pope of Rome in this country lies in nothing so much as in the affrighted imagination of weak-minded Protestants. (Hear.) I try sometimes to make out to my own satisfaction, some visible and tangible cause for the excessive fear which pervades so large a number of our fellow-countrymen in regard to Romanism. Assuredly its strength in Great Britain is not in the number of its adherents—nor in their higher social rank—nor in their superior learning—nor in their greater wealth, nor even in their completer organisation. I see no one characteristic of Popery, or of its present position in this country, which should make Protestantism afraid to give it "a clear stage and no favour." (Hear, hear.)

> "Brutus and Cæsar! What should be in that Cæsar?
> Why should that name be sounded more than yours;
> Write them together, yours is as fair a name;
> Sound them, yours doth become the mouth as well;
> Weigh them, yours is as heavy; conjure with them,
> Brutus will start a spirit as soon as Cæsar."

Well, I find nothing in a comparison of the two systems which can fairly account for the readiness of Protestants to fly to the protection of oaths and disabilities against the efforts of Romanism. If the Pope is powerful in this country—so powerful, I mean, as to threaten the safety of our Protestant institutions—it is we who make him so by our own unmanly fears. (Cheers.) Abolish your political restrictions, and leave the two systems to contend one with another on exclusively spiritual grounds, and men's imaginations will soon cease to be excited on the subject. The anti-popery *furor* which every now and then sweeps over the land, and blasts down to their roots all the gentler charities of our religion, and all the kindlier sentiments of our nature, is a factitious excitement. The natural history of it is not wholly unknown. Generally speaking it is this: some clergyman, or lay-writer, with distempered fancy, betakes himself to the study of unfulfilled prophecy, and, as a very usual consequence, becomes light-headed. (A laugh.) He gets into the clouds, and sees afar off coming horrors which no sober-minded man dreamt of anticipating. Well, there would be no great harm in this if it ended where it would end, but for your meddling in the publication of a book which nobody would read. But, it never does end there. The prognosticated evil becomes a useful weapon in the hands of a political party. (Hear, hear.) Some organ of the press, religious in its profession, and circulating largely among ladies'-maids and ancient gentlewomen, seize it and turn it to account. No liberal measure can be prepared, no grand reform can be undertaken, but forth comes some alarming prediction about the Roman Catholic Church; and people, otherwise sensible, are drilled into a half-belief that unless things remain as they are the Pope will regain the ascendancy, and Smithfield fires will be re-kindled within a few years. Sir, I do say that it is time for this House to put an end to these miserable delusions at any cost. (Cheers.) A sense of self-respect, if nothing else, should compel us to wash our hands of this superlative folly. Are we, or are we not, afraid to trust to the Protestantism of this country, to the earnest convictions and deep affections of the great bulk of our fellow countrymen? (Hear, hear.) If we are *not* afraid, what need is there of oaths to protect us against Romanism? If we are, and with reason, what good will these oaths do us? (Hear, hear.)

It were far better (said Mr. Miall, in conclusion) that the House should treat this question on its simple merits, and not with reference to its legal and historical antecedents. Let them look at it as a question of present political expediency. They were now asked to relieve the consciences of men sent there to represent a portion of the population of the country, in order that these men might be able to exercise freely and uncrippled the best of their powers in the making of the laws; and he contended that Parliament had no right, under any fear or apprehension which they might entertain respecting this or that creed, to impose upon those representatives any fetters tending to restrict the exercise of their judgment and their faculties within a comparatively narrow compass. For his own part he should give his unqualified assent to the second reading of the bill. He did not concur in the ecclesiastical policy of the Government generally, but every part of this measure commended itself to his judgment, and he was able for himself to look at the apprehended consequences of it with perfect calmness and tranquillity. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WHITESIDE made an elaborate and powerful speech, principally based upon Irish experiences and his observations at Rome; and citing the oath taken by bishops and archbishops of the Church of Rome, to show that they own a distinct and supreme allegiance to the Pope. The oath of supremacy was a national protest against the jurisdiction of the Pope; the pretension to jurisdiction had not been abandoned; and therefore it would be unwise to abandon the protest against it. Should Lord J. Russell re-open the Catholic question, it would not be decided by fluctuating majorities in the House of Commons, but by the Protestant people of this country.

Pointing to the curious turn which a discussion on the admission of the Jews had taken, Lord JOHN RUSSELL himself proceeded in the course already marked out for him; answering the objections of various members. He showed, that by the Catholic Emancipation Act, Roman Catholics are exempted from the provisions of the Act of William and Mary; and that therefore the argument of Mr. Napier, if admitted at all, would require the Emancipation Act to be repealed. In his own form, however, Lord John had taken the very words in the oath of 1829; endeavouring to select words which all members could adopt. He exposed at some length, with great force, the stultified working of the present oath, which virtually takes bail against men from whom no danger could be apprehended. "If suspected persons are to be subjected to any restraint, you say, it will be a great satisfaction to me to put that restraint upon those who are not suspected." Another considerable portion of Lord John's speech exposed the irreverence of taking God to witness vain and futile attestations, such as the one that the swearers would not recognize any of the descendants of King James the Second; Lord John hoping that oath might be buried in the very tomb which a sovereign of this country had provided for the last of the Stuarts in Rome. Oaths, in fact, are futile to those that believe the oath to be contrary to their duty. On the experience of King Charles the Second's reign, the House of Commons adopted a new oath after seventeen days' debate, declaring it not lawful on any pretence whatever to take up arms against the King. Lord Halifax, as able and witty a man as any who took part in the debates at that period, said that if every man in a town took the oath not to break into his neighbour's house, no one would for that reason leave his doors unbolted. And the event justified his argument, for when the people of this country believed it their duty to take up arms against King James, they did it without regard to the oath. To show how impossible it is to deal with such subjects as the restraint of Romanist encroachments by so feeble and simple an instrument as an oath, Lord John Russell cited the evidence given by Dr. Wiseman in the Sussex Peerage case; when it was stated that the spiritual authority of the Pope had been exercised by Dr. Wiseman judicially, in separating, under spiritual penalty, persons whom he did not think to be lawfully married; thus enforcing a very important civil consequence. Ineffectual as a bar to acts of that kind, the oath has been used as a restraint upon the political duty of the Roman Catholic in Parliament. In fact, the obligation to take the oath does not alter the law of the land, but only stamps a portion of our fellow subjects as being enabled to legislate for the benefit of the country.

Mr. DISRAELI, speaking with great solemnity—acknowledging Lord John Russell's eminent services in the cause of religious liberty, declaring that he himself was under no restraint or urgency from his political friends, and assuring the House that he spoke under the most earnest and solemn convictions—avowed himself in favour of emancipating the Jews but against this bill. He expatiated on the debt which all Christians owe to people of that race for their own faith; he observed that the House of Commons would not have existed at this time if it had not been for the translation of the Bible; that the people of Scotland are indebted for their liberties to "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon;" and he believed that the Jews must ultimately attain their object. On this subject, however, they have no cause to complain: the question has only been debated for a few years; and if Lord John would compose an oath specially for Jews it should have his support. But he thought the present an inopportune moment to propose alteration in the oath of supremacy. Papacy is one of the greatest of human inventions: it is only three years since Lord John himself announced a formidable Papal conspiracy; and the House must not think that the Papacy is as changeable in opinion as an English Minister, or that subjects so serious are to be dismissed on the authority of wits like Lord Halifax.

After a few words from Mr. MUNTZ and Mr. GOULBURN, both against the bill, and the latter declining to re-open the compromise of 1829, the House divided, when the numbers were—

For the amendment	251
Against it	247
Majority against the second reading ...	—4

The announcement of the numbers was received with loud cheering from the Opposition benches.

THE WAR.

In both Houses of Parliament, on Friday, various questions were asked and statements made relative to the war.

In the House of Lords, replying to questions from the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, the Earl of CLARENDON stated that the treaty lately concluded between Austria and Prussia was kept a profound secret while under negotiation, and only communicated to the British Government when ratified. On the 23rd instant it was communicated to the Conference of Vienna, at the same time with the convention between England and France; and a "protocol annexing the two conventions together was signed the same day." As soon as it is received it will be presented to the House. With respect to Greece, Lord Clarendon promises the fullest information on the subject within a week, when it will be seen "that there have been ample grounds for that measure of coercion which has been reluctantly adopted towards Greece by Her Majesty's Government in concert with the Government of France." As regards the intelligence from India, Lord Clarendon had no reason to believe that any treaty has been concluded between Russia and Persia, or between Russia and Bokhara and Khiva. Indeed, Persia has made a declaration of neutrality; and is so determined not to vex Turkey in her war with Russia that she has suspended her claims on Turkey, some of them just.

The "Manning the Navy Bill" passed through committee in the Lords. The Duke of NEWCASTLE explained, that notwithstanding the title, retained from usage, the bill is only to regulate the distribution of prizes. He pointed out amendments in the present measure as compared with former bills—omission of rules for privateers, no longer allowed; the new rules relating to prize-agency, restraining the agents' power of deducting expenses, preventing waste of prize, and checking loss to the recipients; substitution of public auction for private sale of prize-ships, &c. The Earl of ELLENBOURGUGH, the Earl of HARDWICKE, and Lord COLCHESTER took detailed exceptions to the bill; and Lord Hardwicke announced probable amendments for the third reading.

In the Commons, questions were put by Admiral WALCOTT, Mr. S. FITZGERALD, Mr. HEADLAM, Sir GEORGE PECHELL, Mr. MILNER GIBSON, and Lord DUDLEY STUART; and answered by Sir JAMES GRAHAM and Lord JOHN RUSSELL in substance as follows:—No official information respecting the loss of the *Tiger* has been received; but Ministers believe the report to be substantially true. Eight or ten gunboats are fitting out for the Baltic, each to carry thirty-six men, and to be employed only in conjunction with larger forces: it is impossible to appoint medical officers to these boats. There is a rigorous blockade of the Russian coasts both in the Baltic and the Black Sea: there is reason to believe that Riga is included. A blockade de facto is operative in its immediate neighbourhood: notification from the seat of government renders it effectual against all neutrals. It is not intended to blockade Archangel, or any port in the White Sea. No treaty has been entered into between England and the Sultan as to the joint capture of Russian vessels.

On Monday, also, the war was a prominent topic. In reply to Mr. BLACKETT, Lord J. RUSSELL announced the arrival of a copy of the new protocol signed on the 23rd inst. by the representatives of the Four Powers at the Vienna Conference. Time had not allowed him to become acquainted with the full import of this document, but he was assured that it fully recognised the principle that the integrity of the Ottoman Empire must be maintained, and the invaded Principalities evacuated by Russia. There was in it no recognition of the clause in the last Austro-Prussian treaty by which those two Powers mutually guaranteed to one another the possession of their non-German provinces.

In answer to Mr. DRUMMOND, the noble lord stated that the question of placing the whole of the military resources of the country under the management of one responsible Minister had been under the consideration of the Government, but that no positive decision had yet been come to.

In reply to an inquiry by Mr. M. MILNES, the noble lord said, the Government had not received any account of the actual occupation of any part of the Greek territory; but a force of 6,000 men had been sent from France with instructions to occupy the Piræus, and a detachment of British infantry would be likewise employed in its occupation. The cause of this measure was the connivance of the Greek Government in the insurrection raised in the Turkish provinces adjoining Greece, instead of imitating the good faith which the Government of the Porte had shown since the recognision of Greek independence. The Government of England and France had therefore thought it necessary to send the force in question for the protection of the Government of Greece itself, if the protestations made by that Government were true; if not, other measures would be taken. There was no intention, he added, to declare war against Greece; but the Greek Government would not be allowed, covertly or openly, to become an ally of Russia against Turkey during the war.

Mr. COBDEN asked whether the allied forces would occupy Athens as well as the Piræus? Lord J. RUSSELL replied, that Athens would not be occupied, except in certain contingencies.

Replying to questions from Lord D. STUART, Sir J. GRAHAM recapitulated the details of the arrangements which had been effected for the conveyance of letters to and from the British navies and armies in the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, and Turkey respectively. For the Baltic fleet a mail was made up in London every Tuesday, the letters being transmitted *via* Belgium and Prussia to Dantzic, whither Sir C. Napier was instructed to despatch every Friday a steamer to meet and convey the correspondence to the fleet. The postage on letters not exceeding the half ounce in weight would amount to 8d. for officers' letters, that sum being made up by a charge of 3½d. for the British, 1d. for the Belgian, and 3½d. for the Prussian rate. Seamen and soldiers would receive their letters for 5d., the British rate being reduced in their behalf to a halfpenny, and the remainder paid over to Belgium and Prussia, who allowed no distinction in the charge on account of differences in the rank of the recipients. Besides this weekly despatch, letters would be sent by all ships of war or other Government vessels that were, or might be, sent to join the fleet, at a charge of 1d. to the seamen and soldiers, and of 6d. to officers. Of such opportunities there had occurred three in March, three in April, and five in May, and due notice would always be given of the sailing of any vessels in future in time for the public to take advantage of the circumstances. With regard to letters from the Baltic fleet, Sir C. Napier was instructed to send a steamer regularly once a fortnight to England, so as to keep up a regular communication. Letters to the Black Sea fleet and the army in Turkey would be sent six times in every month through France, enjoying all the facilities, and sent at the same charges provided by the French Government for their own troops, viz., 3d. a-piece for all letters under ¼ oz. in weight. Soldiers' and sailors' letters would also be conveyed at the same privileged rate of 1d., by the fortnightly Oriental steamer from Southampton to Malta, and thence by such casual opportunities as might offer to their ultimate destination. Sir J. Graham further explained that the complaints of delay and overcharge which had been made were principally from the fact that the letters in question had been addressed to a particular locality, instead of generally to the Fleet, the postal authorities being consequently obliged to forward them through the usual route and at the customary charge.

THE WAR BUDGET

Was again discussed and advanced a stage in the House of Commons on Friday. In the Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. WILSON carried resolutions equalising the duties on spirits distilled from malt and from grain. In the course of the brief conversation, Mr. HUME said that he thought the Government should raise the duty on spirits to the highest possible point that might be safe without leading to illicit distillation or smuggling. An opinion was almost generally expressed that, owing to the high price of grain, there was little reason to apprehend that the augmented duty on spirits would give rise to illicit distillation. In committee on the Excise-duties Bill, Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD moved an amendment, that the duty should be levied "from and after" not "on and after" the 8th May: negatived by 146 to 40.

In Committee on the Income-tax Bill, Sir H. WILLOUGHBY expressed his regret that no attempt had been made to remedy the glaring inequalities of this tax, by drawing a distinction between permanent and temporary interests. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that Sir H. Willoughby had, in a very thin House, raised one of the most important questions which could attract the attention of Parliament. This was an unfavourable opportunity for the solution of a problem which, he must frankly confess, he believed was incapable of solution. The clauses were agreed to, and the House resumed.

On Monday, after some remarks from Sir H. WILLOUGHBY and others, the Exchequer Bonds (£6,000,000) Bill was read a second time—the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER saying, that he did not anticipate the necessity of creating funded debt; but he could not give an unconditional pledge, inasmuch as it might be the duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to create debt without the sanction of Parliament.

The Excise Duties Bill passed through committee, and the Consolidated Fund (£8,000,000) Bill was read a third time and passed.

On the order for the second reading of the Customs Duties (sugar and spirits) bill, Mr. J. WILSON stated the views of the Government upon the subjects to which the bill related, and explained its details. He justified the adoption of a new scale of qualities of sugar, and detailed the reasons why the Government intended to prohibit the refining of sugar in bond, and the regulations by which bonded refineries were to become free refineries. He then explained the course proposed to be pursued with respect to drawbacks, which became necessary on the prohibition of refining in bond. The Government, he said, had been asked to permit the use of sugar and molasses in breweries; but, after mature consideration, it was found utterly impossible, consistently with the interests of the revenue, to allow either sugar or molasses to be used in breweries. Lastly, he stated the alterations made, in the way of compromise, between the refiner and the importer, regarding time and rate of duty, in the original scheme with reference to foreign refined and foreign raw sugars. A long discussion ensued, chiefly as to the day when the bill should be committed. It was fixed for Friday next.

The Stamp Duties Bill was read a second time, after some objections raised by Mr. HADFIELD, Mr. VANCE, and Mr. HUME.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY BILL.

On the resumption of the committee on this bill, objection was taken on the ground that the attendance was thin and the House taken by surprise. Lord J. RUSSELL disclaimed any intention to take the House by surprise, and, with reference to the scant attendance, reminded the committee of Lord Clarendon's observation respecting the Commons in his time:—"There are many members who love the Church, but they love it not so well as their dinner." The points upon which discussion was raised were the powers of the Congregation to suggest and discuss amendments; the use of the English language in Congregation and Convocation; and the oaths. Ministers readily consented to some verbal amendments here and there, and to one making it imperative on the Hebdomadal Council to consider the amendments suggested by members of the Congregation. Mr. HEYWOOD moved that words be added to clause 24, giving Convocation "the right of conducting its proceedings in the English tongue." The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the amendment, which, on a division, was negatived by 140 to 99.

On the question of agreeing to clause 25, which declares that certain votes in use in the University shall be illegal after the passing of the act, Mr. BLACKETT declared that his wish had been to extend the principle of the clause to all the idle and profane oaths by which members of college foundations bind themselves in general terms to obey the statutes of their colleges; but, being informed by the Chairman that this course would be irregular, he was obliged to move the omission of the clause in the first instance, with the view of substituting for it a clause drawn in these words—"It shall henceforward be unlawful to administer any oath on admission to any office of emolument in the said University or the colleges thereof." The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought the course taken by the hon. gentleman was inconvenient in point of form; besides which, it might be doubted whether the House would go the length of prohibiting all promissory oaths in the University. The motion was withdrawn, the clause agreed to, and the committee was adjourned to Monday.

On Monday the House again went into committee at a late hour, but, at the suggestion of various members, Lord JOHN RUSSELL postponed further proceedings till Thursday.

THE BRIBERY BILLS—ANIMATED DISCUSSION.

The second reading of the Canterbury Bribery Prevention Bill having been moved on Monday,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL announced the intention of the Government to withdraw the bill, as well as the four measures with reference to the boroughs of Cambridge, Kingston, Maldon, and Barnstaple. As a matter of principle, it might be doubted whether it was fair to inflict punishment upon individuals for offences proved almost exclusively by their own confession, given under a pledge of impunity. As a practical difficulty in the way of passing the bills, he observed that the schedules containing the names of the alleged offenders who were to fall within their purview had been found to be full of errors.

In the course of a brief debate which followed this announcement, Lord J. RUSSELL stated that he intended to propose the continued suspension of the writs for the five boroughs in question until the two general bills for preventing bribery and corruption, which now were before a select committee, had been fairly discussed in the House.

Mr. DISRAELI then rose to commence what proved an exciting debate. Seven important bills, he remarked, had been introduced by the Government during the session. Three of them had been defeated—those for remodelling the Law of Settlement, for changing the Educational System in Scotland, and for re-constructing the Parliamentary Oaths. Three more had been withdrawn—the bill now under discussion, the Civil Service Bill, and the Reform Bill. One remained still in suspense—one for reforming the University of Oxford—having already suffered much damage, with a probability of ultimate discomfiture.

It is of great importance (he continued) to impress these circumstances on the House and the country, because we are never to forget that we enjoy the great blessing of having our affairs administered by men who are remarkably distinguished by their ability (laughter)—men who have made enormous sacrifices, both for their country and for themselves. (Laughter.) Than the noble lord himself no man has made greater sacrifices. He has thrown over all his old colleagues, and connected himself with a coterie of public men who, the greater part of their lives, have been depreciating his great abilities, and running down his eminent renown. (Cheers and laughter.) If the noble lord had succeeded in the object for which he made such enormous sacrifices, I could understand more clearly than I do the present position of the noble lord (laughter); but we find it otherwise. Six of these seven great measures have, at the end of May, disappeared—three having been withdrawn, and the other moiety defeated (hear, hear); and I feel that the time has come when it is impossible not to consider that we should have had the ample compensation held out to us for the breaking up of parties, for not following the spirit and genius of our Parliamentary constitution. (Hear, hear.) We have not received that full and ample compensation in well-digested and statesmanlike measures that was held out to us. We were told that the Government had no principles, but "all the talents," and we had a right to expect that the noble lord—who always wishes to behave handsomely to the House—would at least have given us something as a compensation for the remarkable state of affairs which has banished all his natural colleagues to invisible positions in this House, and placed him on a bench surrounded by those who have been decrying his career for the last quarter of a century. (Laughter.) It was necessary to make these passing observations (laughter), for this is such a busy country—the people have so much to do, and we ourselves have so much to do—that truly they have not time to take strict account of what their representatives are doing. (Hear.) It is, therefore, of great importance that they should well understand that the month of May has now terminated, or is about to terminate; that the Government have introduced six of the most important measures ever brought under the notice of Parliament, and that none of these measures have advanced or can advance a stage, three of them having occasioned the Government ignominious and complete discomfiture, and the other three having been discreetly withdrawn (hear); that a seventh measure remains, which has already received two considerable defeats, and which to-night I hope will receive its final overthrow. (Great cheering.)

The motion that the order for the second reading of the Canterbury Bill should be discharged having been agreed to, and a similar motion made with regard to the next bill,

Lord J. RUSSELL took the opportunity of re-

plying to Mr. Disraeli. Since the reform of the House of Commons, Ministers, he remarked, no longer enjoyed their old and pleasant security of commanding majorities. But though he regretted the failure of several measures, the Government had obtained the sanction of the House on other points of yet greater consequence. Their negotiations before the war, their measures for carrying it on, and their financial policy, had all received authentication by the Legislature. Upon some of these questions the Opposition had not ventured to challenge a vote, on others they had been defeated by considerable majorities—a result which warranted the inference that, whatever confidence the Government could obtain in that House, Mr. Disraeli could boast of none. Upon the last measure proposed by Ministers,—

The vote which the right hon. gentleman gave had one practical effect—and that was, to exclude the Jews from Parliament. (Hear.) The right hon. gentleman has more than once, and I have no doubt with great sincerity, declared his wish to see the Jews in possession of the franchise with all other subjects of Her Majesty. He thinks they are peculiarly worthy of it, more worthy of it, I believe, than Protestants, Roman Catholics, or any other class of Christians; but, notwithstanding his great anxiety, sometimes he supports it, and sometimes he does not support it—the political conveniences of the hour always seem to overcome his attachment to the cause. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DISRAELI instantly returned to the charge:—

The noble lord seems to think that I am surprised that he has not quitted office; Sir, on the contrary, I should have been immensely surprised if he had. (Loud laughter from the Opposition.) Many more defeats, if possible more humiliating, and if possible more complete, must occur before the noble lord will feel the necessity of taking such a step as that. (Cheers.) I know the noble lord too well; I have sat opposite to him too long; I have seen him too often in the same position. Many a time have I seen him experience the most signal defeats, and I have seen him still adhere to office with a patriotism and a pertinacity which cannot be too much admired. (Cheers and laughter.)

He went on to review the conduct of Lord John as leader of the Opposition against Lord Derby's Government, especially in reference to the militia bill, and the disposal of vacant seats.

Year after year, having disfranchised boroughs, petty boroughs, for corrupt practices, you neglected to fill up the vacant seats, and you left the numbers of this House incomplete. The Government of Lord Derby came forward and made an enlightened and liberal proposition (ironical laughter from the Ministerial benches); they laid down a principle, at least, which the noble lord has himself since adopted for his Reform Bill. (Counter cheers.) They said, you should give these forfeited seats to the great counties which are not sufficiently represented. We proposed to give them to the West Riding of Yorkshire and Lancashire; and how was that proposition opposed? With all the sanctimonious rhetoric of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (loud and continued cheers); the right hon. gentleman could not permit a "Government of sufferance" to introduce a measure of Parliamentary reform. "A Government must give us proof of its strength, it must show that it is possessed of the confidence of the country, before we will allow them to appropriate the seats of Sudbury and St. Alban's to the intelligence and population of the north of England. You must wait till you have a Government worthy of the confidence of the country." And here, no doubt, the vision of a true reforming Government passed before the right hon. gentleman's prescient and prophetic glance. (Laughter.) Well, now, what have you got in the matter of Parliamentary reform from this Government? (Cheers.) The West Riding and Lancashire have still to complain of insufficient representation, the vacant seats are lying in the dusthole of defunct suffrages, and the Government absolutely has neither power nor will enough to deal even with the tainted boroughs before us. (Hear, hear.)

The noble lord had sacrificed that which he should value next to the confidence of his Sovereign—namely, the confidence of a great party; he had even destroyed that party; and all for what? To obtain the opportunity of introducing measures of education, and of Parliamentary reform. The former evaporated suddenly and completely: as to the latter—

We witnessed the emotion of the noble lord when he had to come forward in the House of Commons to announce the relinquishment of his favourite scheme. There were some who were inclined to view that ebullition of feeling with indifference or with mockery; some imputed it to lower feelings and sentiments of our nature—(murmurs of dissent)—but I did not ("Hear, hear," from the Opposition). I expressed sincerely what I sincerely felt, and reflection has never bade me for a moment regret that sincere expression of my conviction. (Hear, hear.)

Lord John had found his worst enemies among his colleagues.

All the great measures for which he made costly sacrifices have been defeated or withdrawn, but the noble lord still retains his position. The most eminent statesman in this country, one of the oldest and most experienced of the members of this House—one who has been three times Secretary of State—who has been Secretary of State in each department—who was Prime Minister of England for a long term—one who is associated with the memory of great principles—who is beloved by large bodies of his countrymen—who was the leader of a noble historic party—condescends now to accept a subordinate office under one who is not only a Minister not entitled to the confidence of the country (loud and continued cheering)—but who was his ancient and inveterate political opponent, and whom only four years ago he rose and denounced in this House (he talks of connivance!) as a conniver with foreign conspirators. (Loud cheers.) And now he comes down to the House and tells us, that the defeat which his bill experienced on Thursday night has been occasioned by my being false to the principles which I had previously professed. The noble lord said that I pretended to be an asserter of the claims of the Jews to political equality with the other subjects of Her Majesty, and that I made that cause subservient to political schemes; that when occasion suited me I left the House and did not vote, and that when it was convenient I did vote, still as occasion suited me. Now I give to that statement a most unequivocal and unqualified denial. (Loud cheers.) I deny that I ever absented myself at any period from any division in which the rights of the Jews were concerned. I give the noble lord's statement a most unequivocal and unqualified denial. . . . . Suppose I had got up and said that the noble lord made Parliamentary reform a mere political convenience (ironical laughter from the Opposition); that when it suited him to make it convenient he quitted the House, and did not vote at all on the subject, and then, again, when it suited him, he also knew how to give a vote against that principle. I might, and without much ingenuity, make a very colourable case against him upon that subject, but I should scorn to do it. I am convinced that the noble lord is sincere in his views, and that whenever he has voted against any measure of Parliamentary reform he has done so from a sense of duty. I believe the noble lord has been much too easily influenced by counsellors who have already injured his position (cheers), and who will not rest in their endeavours until they have permanently sullied his once illustrious name. (Cheers.) This I plainly tell the noble lord. I have now endeavoured to vindicate myself from the attack which the noble lord has made upon me, but there is one subject upon which I do not wish to be mistaken, and I therefore repeat, that the noble lord is in error—unintentional, I have no doubt—in stating that I ever left this House when a vote in favour of the Jews was called for. (Loud cheers.)

Sir G. GREY, deprecating the tone which the debate had taken, declared that the friends and colleagues of Lord J. Russell still retained their old confidence in him unshaken; and Colonel PEEL (who spoke from the Opposition benches) disclaimed all sympathy with the personal assault which Mr. Disraeli had directed against the noble member for London.

When the discharge of the third of these bills was proposed, Lord JOHN RUSSELL rejoined to Mr. Disraeli that he had made no factious opposition to Lord Derby's Government; had not been an active party to its overthrow; and in taking office with Lord Aberdeen had acted with the consent of his old colleagues, and on the urgent counsel of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Macaulay. He denied that he had alluded to Lord Aberdeen as the conspirator against Lord Palmerston, and declared that he had not been deceived in the men with whom he acted. He concluded:—

Should I be of opinion that the conduct of the war is not safe in the hands of the present Government—that that Government is not carrying on the war with the vigour which makes war successful, and with a view to a peace which alone could be safe and honourable, from that moment I should cease to be a member of it. (Loud cheers.) But, sir, considering that that is the great and the pressing question of the country, no taunts of the right hon. gentleman would make me leave the Government with which I am connected—a position, God knows, of more labour and anxiety than of any pleasure, profit, or emolument. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I repeat, that unless I were convinced that the present Government is not more likely than any Government which could be formed to carry on the war successfully, and to conclude it by an honourable peace, I should cease to be one of its members; but, so long as I have that opinion, I shall trust to the House and to the country for putting a fair interpretation upon my conduct. (Loud cheers.) I rely upon that justice of a country which, while it is most enlightened, is, at the same time, sometimes misled with regard to the conduct of public men. I rely upon that justice which hardly ever fails to construe rightly the actions of public men. (Loud and continued cheering.)

Mr. B. OSBORNE charged Mr. Disraeli with having erroneously contradicted the statement made by Lord J. Russell, to the effect that he (Mr. Disraeli) had absented himself from debates and divisions on behalf of Jewish emancipation. He referred to "Hansard," for the purpose of showing that he had been absent from at least one division, and on another had voted in the negative.

Mr. DISRAELI explained, with disdainful brevity, that he had been absent from one of those divisions through severe indisposition, and that his vote in the negative was not upon the main principle.

Mr. WALPOLE and Sir J. PAKINGTON bore testimony to Mr. Disraeli's consistent and anxious support of the Jewish claims; and reiterated the charge of factiousness against Lord John.

Mr. BRIGHT thought the noble lord had not come off without scars. It was with reluctance he had voted against Mr. Disraeli's budget, because he could see no advantage to the country from the overthrow of Lord Derby's Government. He believed that Lord John was personally justified in taking office with Lord Aberdeen—whom he also greatly respected—but the coalition had been, from first to last, a failure. He protested against the precedent they had set, in first drawing the country into a war, and then claiming exemption from the ordinary duties of a Ministry on the plea that they must not be embarrassed while carrying it on.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, after touching upon the personal charge that he had assailed Lord Derby with "sanctimonious eloquence," combated Mr. Bright's misapprehension as to the rights and privileges of a Ministry during the progress of a war. He then sketched the career of the existing Administration, and enumerated their performances during the last session, pleading that pending circumstances rendered the present session altogether exceptional, and contending that the charge brought against them of legislative impotence was altogether unwarrantable.

The discussion then terminated, and the orders for second readings of the three remaining bills (Kingston, Maldon, and Barnstaple) were discharged.

MEDICAL GRADUATES (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON) BILL.

On the motion for going into committee, Viscount PALMERSTON deprecated the further proceeding with this bill, because it formed part of a great and complicated question relating to the arrangements of the medical profession, respecting which the College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons had for some time been in communication with each other, and respecting which he trusted that a comprehensive measure would soon be framed of a nature to satisfy both the public and the profession. He should therefore move that the bill be committed that day six months.

Mr. BELL said that the bill was not connected with the question of medical reform at all. It was simply a bill to carry out the intentions of the charter of the London University, and to place its medical graduates on the same footing as those of Oxford and Cambridge. He hoped that at all events the noble lord would consent to postponement for a fortnight, in order that he might make further inquiries respecting the measure.

Mr. THORNELY and Mr. MOWBRAY seconded this appeal, to which Lord PALMERSTON assented, on the understanding that he did not pledge himself to take a different course when the question again came before the House. He understood the objection to the bill was, that it gave the London University power to grant surgical diplomas, which had not been granted by the elder universities, but only by the College of Surgeons, for a very long period.

After a few words from Dr. MICHELL, the committal of the bill was postponed for a fortnight.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS BILL.

Mr. R. PHILLIMORE moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which was merely to improve the manner of taking evidence.

Mr. COLLIER said, the bill was a small attempt to bolster up a great nuisance. The ecclesiastical courts were under sentence of death, and it was very doubtful whether it was worth while to engage in mere infinitessimal reforms.

Mr. PHILLIMORE said that though a bill for removing the testamentary jurisdiction had passed the House of Lords, it would not affect the authority of the courts in matters of clerical discipline; in which the bill would save great delay and expense.

After a short further conversation the bill was read a second time.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLMASTERS.

The LORD ADVOCATE moved for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the salaries of parochial schoolmasters in Scotland. The learned lord said that the measure was necessary after the decision of the House on the question of Scottish education the other night; but, being far from discouraged by the defeat of the Government measure, he should only propose that the arrangement of 1828 should be continued till Martinmas 1855. It would soon be impossible, whether Parliament interfered or not, to maintain these exclusive privileges of the Establishment any longer. He could not but remark, that of the Scotch members who held the principles of the the Voluntaries, not one had voted in the minority on the late bill. (Hear, hear.) It had been said that this measure was meant to serve the Free Church. To him such an accusation was most irksome, conscious as he was of the rectitude of his intentions, and the dignity of his object. A more unfounded and more inexcusable assertion it was impossible to conceive, than that this bill had been meant to put the Free Church schools on the same footing as those of the Establishment. It would have had a decidedly opposite effect, for it would have placed all the schools on an independent footing. He concluded by moving for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the salaries of the parochial schoolmasters of Scotland.

Mr. C. BRUCE regretted that the bill was for such a limited period. He doubted whether any two of the Scotch members who supported the bill were at one with the hon. and learned lord. He wished to be understood, that those on his side of the House were not opposed to the extension of education in the large towns. All they desired was, that the present system, which did great good, should be maintained till a better one was proposed.

Mr. DUNLOP denied that the late measure had been concocted by his hon. and learned friend in connexion with the Free Church. After a few words from Mr. C. BRUCE, Mr. KINNAIRD, and Mr. FORBES, Mr. LOCKHART said he very much regretted the defeat of the bill, which was chiefly attributable to the opposition of English members. Mr. NEWDEGATE defended the English members who voted against the former bill, on the ground that they were justified in resisting a scheme which separated education from religion.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The second reading of the Benefices Augmentation Bill was proposed on Monday; but, on the protest of Mr. PELLATT, who complained that no explanation of its provisions was offered, and that there were no names at its back, it was postponed for a fortnight.

The House of Lords did not sit on Thursday, in consequence of it being Ascension-day; on Monday, because it was the *Anniversary of the Restoration.*

The third reading of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Bill was carried in the House of Lords on Friday, an amendment by the Earl of Clancarty for omitting the clause, giving compensation to tenants for past improvements, being negatived by 41 to 10.

No measure on the subject of Bankruptcy is to be introduced this session.

Lord PALMERSTON, amid loud laughter, informed Mr. M. Gibson, on Monday, that a bill on the subject of county-rates was "in preparation."

Mr. DIGBY SEYMOUR, in allusion to the report that the correspondents of the London papers would not be allowed to accompany the expeditionary forces in Turkey, asked if it was true. No answer being returned, Mr. Seymour asked the question specifically of the noble lord the member for the City of London. The noble lord not being in his place, Mr. Seymour begged to put it to the First Lord of the Admiralty. Sir J. GRAHAM: I have no connexion whatever with the movements of the army. (Loud cheers.) Mr. SEYMOUR, amidst loud laughter and cries of "order," next essayed to draw an answer from the Secretary-at-War; but the attempt was unsuccessful.

Parliament will rise on Friday till Thursday, for the Whitsuntide recess.

PARLIAMENTARY DIVISIONS.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir William Clay's motion for leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of Church-rates was carried in the House of Commons yesterday week by 129 to 62 votes. The following are the names of the members who voted:—

AYES.

Alcock, T	Forster, J	Morris, D
Anderson, Sir J	Forster, C	Mostyn, Hon. T E M L
Atherton, W	Fox, W J	Muntz, G F
Bailey, C	Gardner, R	Murrough, J P
Baines, Rt. Hon. M	Geach, C	Norreys, Lord
Bass, M T	Gibson, Rt. Hn. M T	O'Brien, Sir T
Bell, J	Glyn, G C	O'Connell, J
Biddulph, R M	Goderich, Visct.	O'Flaherty, A
Biggs, W	Goodman, Sir G	Pechell, Sir G B
Blake, M J	Gower, Hon. F L	Pellatt, A
Bland, L H	Greville, Col.	Phillimore, J G
Brand, Hon H	Grosvenor, Lord R	Phinn, T
Bright, J	Hadfield, G	Pigott, F
Brocklehurst, J	Hall, Sir B.	Pilkington, J
Brotherton J	Hanmer, Sir J	Pollard-Urquhart, W
Brown, H	Hastie, A	Price, W P
Bruce, H A	Headlam, T E	Ricardo, O
Butler, C S	Heard, J I	Richardson, J J
Challis, Mr Alderman	Heywood, J	Robartes, T J A
Chambers, M	Heyworth, L	Scholefield, W
Chambers, T	Hindley, C	Scobell, Captain
Cheetham, J	Horsman, E	Scully, V
Cobbett, J M	Hutt, W	Seymour, W D
Cobden, R	Jackson, W	Smith, J B
Cockburn, Sir A J E	Keating, R	Stanley, Lord
Coffin, W	Keating, H S	Strickland, Sir G
Cowan, C	Kershaw, J	Strutt, Rt. Hon. E
Crook, J	King, Hon. P J L	Stuart, Lord D
Crossley, F	Kinnaird, Hon. A F	Sullivan, M
Currie, R	Laing, S	Thickenesse, R A
Dashwood, Sir G H	Langton, H G	Thompson, G
Davie, Sir H R F	Laslett, W	Thornely, T
Devereux, J T	Lee, W	Thornhill, W P
Duke, Sir J	Lindsay, W S	Vivian, J H
Duncan, G	Locke, J	Walmsley, Sir J
Duncombe, T	M'Cann, J	Whitbread, S
Dunlop, A M	M'Gregor, J	Wilkinson, W A
Ewart, W	M'Taggart, Sir J	Wilcox, B M G
Fagan, W	Maguire, J F	Williams, W
Fellden, M J	Martin, J	Wilson, J
Fergus, J	Miall, E	Winnington, Sir T
Ferguson, J	Milligan, R	TELLERS.
Fitzgerald J D	Mitchell, T A	Clay, Sir W
Fitzroy, Hon H	Moffat, G	Peto, S M

NOES.

Alexander, J	Hawkins W W	Phlipps, J H
Bateson, T	Hayes, Sir E	Phillimore, R J
Beach, Sir M H H	Heathcote, Sir W	Postal, M
Bentinck, G W P	Henley, Rt. Hn. J W	Pugh, D
Butt, I	Herbert, Rt. Hn. S	Russell, Lord J
Child, S	Hughes, W B	Sandars, G
Clive, R	Hume, W F	Sawle, C B G
Colville, C R	Langton, W G	Smith, W M
Disraeli, Rt Hon B	Legh, G C	Spooner, R
Drummond, H	Lennox, Lord A F	Tollemache, J
Dupre, C G	Lennox, Lord H G	Vane, Lord A
Farnham, E B	Lockhart, W	Waddington, H S
Filmer, Sir E	Luce, T	Walcott, Admiral
Fortescue, C S	Macartney, G	Walpole, Rt. Hon.
Frewen, C H	Masterman, J	Waterpark, Lord
George, J	Miles, W	Wood, Rt. Hon. Sir C
Graham, Rt Hn Sir J	Michell, W	Woodd, B T
Greenall, G	Montgomery, H L	Wyndham, W
Greene, T	North, F	
Halford, Sir H	Oakes, J H P	TELLERS.
Hamilton G A	Palmerston, Visct.	Packe, C W
Harcourt, G G	Peel, F	Wigram, L T

PAIRS.

For.	Against.
Lord Dalrymple	Colonel Harcourt
Mr. Sheridan	Mr. Stuart
Mr. Massey	Mr. Follett
Sir J Shelley	Mr. K. Seymer
Mr. Bouverie	Mr. Malins
Mr. E. Ellice, jun.	Mr. Deedes
Lieut.-Colonel L. Watkins	Mr. H Gwyn
Mr. V. Smith	Mr. J Johnstone
Mr. Layard	Mr. Napier
Mr. W. Brown	Lord Ossulston
Colonel North	General Buckley
Mr. Grenfell	Mr. W Long
Mr. Oliveira	Lord Blandford
Colonel Freestun	Sir E Dering
Mr. Archibald Hastie	Mr. Buck
Mr. D. O'Connell	Mr. Booker
Hon. W O Stanley	Captain Jones
Mr. Hutchins	Mr. Compton
Sir E. Perry	Earl of Bective
Mr. Gregson	Mr. Baring
Sir J Ramsden	Sir A Campbell
Mr. Roebuck	Sir J Pakington
Mr. E Warner	Mr. W A M'Kinnon
Mr. G Berkeley	Mr. E Denison
Mr. G Byng	Colonel Wyndham
Colonel Clifford	Sir J Bailey
Mr. W Chaplin	Mr. W Bagge
Mr. R P Collier	Mr. J R Mowbray
Mr. E Divett	Mr. B A Christopher
Mr. J Blackett	Lord R Cecil
Mr. J Foley	Sir G Tyler
Mr. T Mills	Sir W Smijth
Mr. T Hankey	Mr. H G Liddell
Mr. J Walker	Sir G Heathcote
Sir W Molesworth	Mr. W T Knatchbull
Mr. C O Brien	Colonel Vyse
Mr. R Osborne	Hon. F Scott
Mr. A Otway	Mr. H Whitmore

THE OATHS BILL.

The Jewish Disabilities Bill of 1853 was read a second time by 263 to 212; majority 51. The Oaths Bill was refused to be read a second time, on Thursday, by 251 to 247; majority 4. This result was mainly brought about by the following twenty members (counting forty on the division) having changed sides:—Mr. Cayley, Mr. Montagu Chambers, Mr. Thomas Chambers, Mr. Charles Cowan, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. George Duncan, Mr. Dunlop, Mr. Joseph Ferguson, Mr. James M. Gaskell, Mr. Archibald Hastie, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Arthur Kinnaird, Mr. Henry Gore Langton, Mr. William Laslett, Mr. David Morris, Mr. Francis Pigott, Mr. George Sanders, Mr. Sawle, Captain Scobell, Mr. Henry H. Vivian. Lord Stanley, who voted for the bill of 1853, was absent on Thursday.

The Bible presented by George Fox to the Swarthmore meeting-house, near Ulverston, and long chained to the reading desk, is about to be restored to its place, after having for some time been in private hands. The Swarthmore meeting-house was the first place of worship erected by the Friends.

Postscript.

THE WAR.

Despatches have been received from Shumla of the 23rd of May, which state that the Russians had been repulsed four times, with heavy loss, at Silistria. A private despatch states that, on the 26th, the fortress had not surrendered.

The following is from Berlin:—The *Journal de St. Petersbourg* says that, on the 19th, two frigates cannonaded the batteries at Wittsland, and, on the 20th, approached Ekenas, but were repulsed. On the 17th, a squadron of two-deckers anchored off Hango-Head. The *Magicienne* has brought intelligence to Copenhagen that a portion of the fleet bombarded Gustavsvarn, on the 22nd, without result. The main attack was expected on the 24th. The French fleet leaves Kiel to-day, for three days' gunnery practice in Balk Roads.

A French division has arrived at the Piræus, but has not yet disembarked. 2,000 insurgents were still posted near Demarko, in Epirus. The Turks are encamped near Arta. Fuad Effendi is reorganizing the province. Thessaly is not yet quiet. King Otho had accepted the ultimatum, and promised to recall the Mavrocordato Ministry, if the occupation were suspended; if not, he was resolved to remove theseat of his government into the interior, and collect his forces there.

Marshal St. Arnaud, Lord Raglan, the Seraskier, and the Capudan Pasha left Constantinople for Varna on the 18th, to concert measures with Omar Pasha and the Admirals. The English division is ready to embark for Varna at a moment's warning. The troops under orders are the 7th, 19th, 23d, 33d, 77th, 88th, and the Rifles.

According to advices from St Petersburg of the 21st, a very hostile feeling prevails in that city against Austria.

The *Himalaya* left Queenstown on Sunday for Constantinople, having the following troops on board:—18 horses and 20 men of the Royal Artillery; 136 men of the 68th Regiment, accompanied by eight women and 22 children; six men of the 3rd Regiment; 20 officers, 294 men, and 298 horses of the 7th Dragoon Guards, and two women. The horses were got on board with the greatest ease, and the arrangements on board this leviathan steam-ship gave the most unqualified satisfaction to the military authorities at Queenstown, who superintended the embarcation.

AUSTRO-PRUSSIAN STATEMENT.

This morning's paper publishes a translation of the "identic and collective memorandum relative to the Eastern question," transmitted from the Vienna and Berlin Cabinets to their envoys at Frankfort, for communication to the President of the Diet, and through him to the members. This document sets forth, in a more marked and explicit manner than any preceding one, the damage and danger to German commercial and political interests from the development of military force on the Lower Danube, which it describes as "inconsistent with the most important neighbouring interests of Austria, and also with those of Germany." It declares it incumbent on Germany to secure, as much as possible, the freedom of Danubian commerce, and not to witness the material animation of water communications with the East by restrictions. It states the mission of Austria and Prussia to be "still at this moment that of preparation *(Vorbereitung)* for all eventualities," and adds in terms which appear intended to be read, as the language of warning, that "both august monarchs will certainly esteem themselves fortunate should coming events not entail the necessity of further intervention." The Diet is assured that the two German Powers have agreed that the war should, under no circumstances, have for result any change in existing territorial positions. And further, "but the two Powers not only regard it to be the essential general interest, but also the inviolable political duty of German Federal Governments to take care (*zuwahren*) that the pro-existing State relations of European great States shall not be altered to the prejudice of Germany by the present war." "Final decision still belongs to the future, and Austria and Prussia cannot intend to anticipate the judgment of their allies upon that which already, in the present state of affairs, calls for mature caution in favour of the general interests of Germany."

The *Times* of this morning publishes the protocols agreed upon by the representatives of the Four Powers at Vienna, on the 23rd, under the head "*The New Quadruple Alliance*" *(!)*

In the Conference of minor States, at Bamburg, there is a considerable pro-Russian feeling. The philo-Russian party of MM. Von Beust, Von der Pforten, and Neurath, have put forth the profound conclusion that the Anglo-French and Turkish pact "does not aim at the maintenance of pre-existing relations, but at novel objects, thereby rendering it doubtful whether it be the interest of Germanyto promote the same!"

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last night, Lord CAMPBELL opposed the Railway and Canal Transit Bill, when the order of the day was read for the committal of that measure. He founded his objections to the bill on the additional and extra-judicial duties which it proposed to throw on the judges. The LORD-CHANCELLOR defended the measure, and thought the judges might fairly perform the duty which it required of them. It had been suggested that the actions arising out of the bill should be confined to the Court of Common Pleas, and as that Court was not overburdened with business, such an arrangement might be desirable. Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY read a letter from the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas stating it as his opinion that the measure would work well if the judges took the trouble to apply it. The House then went into committee on the bill, which was reported, with amendments.

The Manning the Navy Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the Duke of NEWCASTLE, after some opposition from the Earl of HARDWICKE.

The Common Law Procedure Bill was read a third time and passed, after some opposition from Lord ST. LEONARD'S, who moved the omission of the 21st clause. On this motion a division was taken, when there was a majority of 41 to 31 in favour of the clause.

Some other business was then despatched, and their lordships adjourned.

Only thirty-six members being present when the House of Commons met, it was adjourned to Thursday.

AUSTRALIA.

The accounts from the colony of Victoria by the overland mail are exceedingly satisfactory as regards the gold production and the general progress of the population. The chief of the new discoveries of gold had taken place at a locality called Tarrangower, within a few miles of Fryer's Creek. Owing to a scarcity of water, the actual quantities thus far obtained had been small; but the evident richness of the soil had induced the men to heap up enormous quantities for future washing. Discoveries had also been made at three other localities—namely, the Buckland River, Bryant's Ranges, and Crowlands. The aggregate shipments of gold from the commencement of the present year to the 25th of March had been 535,645 ounces. Supposing the same rate of shipment to be continued, its value in the year, at £4 per ounce, would be about £9,000,000. According to the *Melbourne Argus*, the value of the imports into the colony of Victoria in 1853 was £15,842,637, of which about £13,300,000 was from Great Britain and British colonies, and about £1,700,000 from the United States. At present the population of Victoria is estimated at 250,000. The arrivals at Melbourne since January had been 18,102, of whom 12,602 had remained. This number included nearly 1,000 Chinese. An electric telegraph from the bay to the Custom-house, a distance of about eight miles, had commenced working on the 7th of March. The erection of an exchange was about to be commenced forthwith.

The celebrated Canvas-town, Melbourne, the nest of crime and debauchery, was, by order of the Government of Victoria, to be removed by the 1st of April. For some time past (says the *Melbourne Argus*) houses have become plentiful, and those who were forced six months since to fix their residence in this wretched spot, may now secure a comfortable lodging at a comparatively reasonable rate.

OPENING OF JAPAN.

The most important intelligence brought by the Overland Mail is the authentic accounts of the successful negotiations of his Excellency Commodore Perry, of the United States' navy, in Japan. There is great reason for believing that we may shortly have particulars of the treaty and the ports to be opened, as on the 27th of March Commodore Perry was to have a grand meeting near Jeddo with the Princes and Ministers of the Emperor of Japan, appointed, it is said, for the consideration and conclusion, and most probably the ratification, of the treaty. The United States' ship Saratoga was to be despatched soon after the 27th for Panama to convey the important news to Washington.

The ports selected are said to be Ozaka, in 34 deg. 45 min. north lat., and 135 deg. 25 min. lon., and Matamai, in the Straits of Sangan. The Emperor of Japan was dead. A very old man, but a new Emperor, was enthroned. The report given of the Russian Admiral having made a treaty with the Emperor, turns out to be unfounded.

Pekin *Gazettes* were to the 2nd of March. The defeat of the rebels is contradicted, and it appears, following their general policy, they have evacuated Teh-leu, and proceeded to Shooning, nearer the capital. As the season advances we must hear of some important movement on Pekin. We have nothing important from Ningpo, Foochow, or Amoy. Canton is quiet, but there is an unpleasant feeling in the city from the numerous executions, and the accounts from the interior of the troubles continue very unfavourable, so as to effect trade seriously, and do much mischief.

The Ganges Canal, the greatest public work as yet constructed by the English in India, was opened by the Lieutenant-Governor of Agra on the 8th of April. The total length of channel navigable throughout, including the trunk and terminal lines into the great branches, is very nearly 890 miles. The principal engineering work is an aqueduct over the Solani river, having a water-way of 750 feet. This work cost £300,000.

The registrars' tables give 1,143 deaths as the result registration in the week that ended last Saturday. of This number exhibits but a small decrease on the mortality of the preceding week, which was shown to be higher than usual. In the ten weeks corresponding to last week of the years 1844-53 the average number was 924, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1,016. The present return is therefore in excess of the estimated amount by 127. Fatal cases arising from zymotic diseases numbered last week 282, while the corrected average is 222. Deaths caused by diseases of the organs of respiration amount to 177; in ten corresponding weeks the average was 140. Five persons were the victims of intemperance.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP RETURNS.

The return of penny stamps for newspapers in the United Kingdom for the years 1851-2-3, has been followed by a return showing the number of stamps issued to the various journals published in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin for the first quarter of the present year. We have before shown that, according to these returns, the circulation of the *Nonconformist* has progressively increased since its establishment in 1841—that while in 1842 the number of stamps supplied to us was 110,850, in 1853, it had risen to 167,000—and that our circulation in the last-named year showed an increase of 17,825 over that of 1852. The new return more than confirms these favourable conclusions, and enables us to draw up the following list of metropolitan newspapers having a smaller circulation than our own:—

Names.	Stamps. 1851.	Stamps. 1852.	Stamps. 1853.	Stamps. 1st Qr. 1853.	Stamps. 1st Qr. 1854.
NONCONFORMIST	149,700	149,175	167,000	39,500	41,000
Spectator	150,000	149,000	146,500	38,500	40,000
British Banner	196,900	193,375	202,205	39,750	36,500
Wesleyan Times ..	363,315	247,210	184,000	50,000	31,000
Watchman.....	214,000	190,000	170,209	40,000	30,000
Leader	115,000	98,000	120,700	25,500	29,000
John Bull	110,000	110,000	93,000	20,000	25,000
Britannia	133,000	124,250	105,508	27,750	24,500
Atlas	80,250	73,852	76,500	19,500	23,750
Patriot*	137,000	137,700	131,986	33,000	30,000
Weekly News	93,000	107,500	66,000	15,000	15,000
Christian Times ..	86,500	69,500	69,575	18,500	14,000
Inquirer.....	50,000	44,600	40,000	12,000	14,000

* Twice a week.

It appears from this statement, that our circulation during the past quarter surpassed that of twelve other London journals, and places us at the head of the Dissenting press. While our issue was 4,500 more than the highest of our Nonconformist contemporaries, it was nearly three times that of the lowest. One not very encouraging deduction from the above table, is the general decrease in the circulation of the Dissenting press. During the three years, the *Nonconformist* is the only one that has made a steady advance. We state this rather as a matter of fact than of congratulation. There is ample room for the success of all, without rivalry or jealousy; and we have no desire to increase our issue at the expense of our contemporaries. We hope we may be allowed to regard this distinction as an incentive to continue in the courses we have heretofore pursued, and an indication that stedfast adherence to radical principles and independence of sects and parties, is a sure passport to public confidence.

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The NONCONFORMIST affords an excellent medium for advertisements of Assurance Companies, Schools, Philanthropic and Religious Societies, Books, Situations, and Tradesmen's announcements, &c.

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	s.	d.		s.	d.
For 3 Lines	1	6	For 6 Lines	3	0
4 Lines	2	0	7 Lines	3	6
5 Lines	2	6	8 Lines	4	0

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All communications RELATING TO ADVERTISEMENTS, AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE PAPER, should be addressed to Mr. William Freeman, Publisher, 69, Fleet-street, London, to whom POST-OFFICE ORDERS must be made payable at the General Post-office.

Covers for binding the *Nonconformist*, price 3s. each, and Portfolios for filing the current volume, price 4s. 6d. each, may be had at the Publishing-office, or through any bookseller or news-agent.

*** Several copies of the *Nonconformist*, of Dec. 28. 1853, with Supplement, are wanted to complete volumes for binding.—Address to the Publisher, 69, Fleet-street.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1854.

SUMMARY.

DIPLOMACY has again been busy at Vienna, although without any marked result. Germany has been wooed, but not yet won by the Western Powers. Prussia is still cool, Austria coy, and the Frankfort Diet provokingly dilatory. To the undiplomatic sense these make-believe negotiations, resulting in protocols composed in bad French and with no meaning, unless it be a hidden one, are incomprehensible. On the 23rd inst. the representatives of the Four Powers adopted a protocol binding them "to unite all their efforts and their entire resolution to accomplish the object which forms the basis of this agreement." That object, so far as we can make out, is solely the evacuation of the Principalities by Russia, and the preservation of the integrity of the Ottoman empire. As soon, therefore, as the troops of the Czar are withdrawn from Moldavia and Wallachia, the German Powers will be released from their protocols and enabled to devote their diplomacy and material force to prevent any change in existing territorial arrangements—that is, any dismemberment of Russian territory. This fundamental idea is prominent in the verbose message which the two great German Courts have sent to the Frankfort Diet. If, therefore, these Powers are to co-operate more decidedly with the Western Alliance, it will be with the distinct understanding that, come what will, the *status quo ante* is to be preserved. Russia is come off with comparative impunity. In presence of this cardinal condition, the references to the injury inflicted on the material interests of Germany by the violation of Turkish territory, the determination "to secure, as much as possible, the freedom of Danubian commerce, and not to witness the material animation of water communication with the East repulsed by restrictions" [sublime obscurity of language!], and the portentous hint that, though at present preparing for eventualities, "both august monarchs will certainly esteem themselves fortunate should coming events not entail the necessity of further intervention," have little significance. Nevertheless there are many indications that the breach between Russia and Austria is widening, and that the haughty assumptions of the Czar have somewhat shaken even the Prussian court. In both cases, the stagnation of commerce and the consequent decline of revenue, together with the occasional ebullitions of popular feeling, will do more than diplomatic jargon to hasten their decision.

It is now officially announced that Greece is to be occupied by French and English troops. They are at first to anchor in the Piræus till a reply has been received to the *ultimatum* sent to King Otho. It is reported that the Bavarian sovereign will accept the terms proposed, on condition that the allied forces are not landed. In case of his request being refused, he threatens to "retire to the interior, and there concentrate his troops." It is to be hoped this wretchedly-misgoverned country will benefit by the change of masters. Corruption, brigandage, and piracy are terms not too strong in which to describe its present condition. King Otho will be little regretted by any party, and from the descriptions given of the anarchy that prevails in Greece, the Allied Powers are likely to be hailed as liberators and protectors. Meanwhile the insurrection in Thessaly and Epirus is subsiding, though we read of such classic spots as Mount Olympus and Mount Ossa being still infested by the Greek freebooters. The "patriotism" of the insurgents may be judged from the statement that more than 700,000 sheep have been carried over the Greek frontier, and that "plunder, murder, rape, destroying and burning, are the order of the day."

The past week brings very little of importance respecting the actual operations of the war. The allied squadrons maintain a watchful *surveillance* over the Black Sea; and, although they have been unable to provoke an encounter, the Czar has found it prudent to abandon most, if not all, his stations on the Coast of Circassia. Reports of a bombardment of Kaffa are of little consequence. Of more importance is the actual departure of Marshal St. Arnaud and Lord Raglan to Varna to confer with Omar Pasha, and the preparations for despatching a British force to the same port. The strong fortress of Silistria was not taken up to the 26th instant, the Russians having been repeatedly repulsed with great slaughter. The commandant of this important strategic point is Moussa Pasha, virtual Director-General of the Turkish artillery of the Ottoman Empire—one of the most distinguished men of the Ottoman Empire, the great reformer of this arm, and the man whose persevering and energetic support of the Prussian officers for a number of years has made the Turkish artillery what it is. The detached forts of Silistria are very strong, and there is some reason to hope that they will hold out till relieved by the approach of the allies.

From the Baltic we learn that negotiations between Sweden and the Western Powers are still very active, and that Sir Charles Napier has commenced the bombardment of Hango, though at present with doubtful success. With rumours that Cronstadt is "not impregnable" come reports of the increasing fermentation of the Russian capital, the dejection of the Czar, the preparations for the defence of St. Petersburg, the suspension of trade, and the enhanced price of provisions. The Czar is accumulating combustibles at home which may, ere long, make him glad to put an end to his troubles abroad.

Her Majesty's prison of Newgate has, for some months past, contained a prisoner of unwonted dignity, and who has been treated with unwonted consideration. Mr Jeremiah Smith, Mayor of Rye, so grossly equivocated in his evidence before the Election Committee on that borough, that he was ordered to be indicted for perjury; and, being convicted, was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment. It is now sought to obtain his release, on the ground that circumstances not brought forward on his trial, establish his own representation—namely, that the acknowledged falsity of his evidence was unintentional; the result of nervousness—or, at worst, of a too eager desire to screen an innocent friend; a want of candour, but not of truthfulness. It is also alleged that by prolonged incarceration, his life is endangered, and thus the capital penalty may be inflicted for an offence which the law meant to punish much less severely. A deputation, bearing a memorial signed by 127 members of Parliament, and bundles of testimonials to character sufficient to outweigh any evidence but that of fact, waited on Lord Palmerston the other day; but could obtain nothing more than the promise of "consideration."

News from the extreme East touches on only one point of interest. The American, Commodore Perry, has anticipated his Russian rival in the design of opening Japan to the ships of all nations; if, indeed, the Muscovite mind could entertain so large a plan. By what persuasions this has been accomplished we have yet to learn; and of the immediate advantages expected we are also ignorant. The Dutch have brought to Europe from the land to which they alone have hitherto had access little that could do more than excite admiring curiosity — exquisite ornaments and ingenious toys; the former, remarkably enough, chiefly on French models. If, however, Japan should prove, like the tomb of the Persian monarch, an elaborate attempt at hiding nothing, the world will have gained by Jonathan's enterprise, though he may "rile" in disappointment.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WHAT may be the opinion of the public we will not undertake to pronounce, but, assuredly, the House of Commons is becoming thoroughly wearied out with politico-religious discussions. And well it may. Last week, for example, the debate on Church-rates, which occupied the main part of Tuesday evening, was followed on Wednesday by a six hours' wordy warfare upon Mr. Whiteside's bill for *protecting* nuns in the testamentary disposition of their property; while Thursday was wholly given up to controversy on Lord John's Parliamentary Oaths Bill. Three days out of the five on which the House sits were thus abstracted from the legitimate business of the Legislature, and wasted, or something worse, on barren polemics. The true cause of this frightful annoyance is, as yet, but partially surmised. It does not seem to strike hon. members, that all the festering and inflammation of which they complain, and which time rather aggravates than heals, is produced by the presence in the body politic of a system which is not homogeneous with it, and which the natural forces of that body are ever operating to extrude. So long as the Church of a third of the population continues to be patronised, petted, paid, and pampered by the civil power—and so long as, on the other hand, the public mind remains active, and the public conscience can distinguish between justice and injustice—this spirit of religious antagonism will be kept up, and as the struggle becomes more earnest, the incidents of every day will take a deeper ecclesiastical hue. "The beginning of the end" is come, and every year will probably witness religious contests on the Parliamentary battle-field, more and more frequent and fierce, until every man in the country who cares for religion more than for its gilded trappings, will demand, on behalf of Christianity, that politicians will be pleased to leave her to her own resources.

Lord John Russell's Oaths Bill was a step in that direction, but taken with too little decision. Complete in itself, and introduced early in the session, it should have been pushed on to triumph or defeat with manly vigour. Instead of this, it was postponed from week to week, until the House had come to look upon it as a joke—and when at last it was brought on, nobody believed that Ministers cared much for its fate. It was curious to observe how the true merits of the question at issue were concealed by clouds of legal dust raised about it by Sir F. Thesiger, Mr. Napier, and Mr. Whiteside—and how the Jews, who were meant to be befriended by the bill, were almost entirely forgotten. Indeed, the debate throughout was little more than a repetition of the anti-Papal struggle which has evoked so much fervid and fruitless oratory during the present session. Yet, there was one speech to which we listened with unusual satisfaction—the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Gladstone is fulfilling the hopes we cherish regarding his ecclesiastical metempsychosis much more rapidly than we had anticipated. The principles he enounced on Thursday evening would have been not ill-placed in the mouth of a Nonconformist—and the deep current of his eloquence swept away, almost without effort, and wholly without noise, all the heaps of antiquated historical rubbish which Sir F. Thesiger had previously collected with so much diligence. The Chancellor, high Churchman as he is, is, nevertheless, more liberal than many members of Radical pretensions who sit behind him—more confident in the self-sustaining energy of Divine truth, than some whose creed

may be less priestly, but whose reliance upon it is far less implicit. Mr. Disraeli commanded sympathy for that portion of his speech which related to the emancipation of the Jews, and to his own views regarding it; and, indeed, throughout, he displayed more intellectual vigour and less personal abusiveness than is his wont. But the greater portion of the debate was dull, and from the time that Mr. Gladstone sat down to the hour when Mr. Disraeli rose, the House was not very well attended. Of course, the division, adverse to Ministers, was vociferously applauded by the self-styled Protestant party, amongst whom we were ashamed to see several Scotch members calling themselves Liberal.

The financial measures of the Government, rendered necessary by the war, are making steady progress through their several stages—the decisive division on Monday se'nnight having had the effect of putting the extinguisher on all opposition to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, save only that of minor criticism. Not so, however, with the Oxford University Bill, which comes on and goes off as room can be found for it, but which encounters in committee very searching discussion, and which makes but slow progress towards maturity. Thirty-five clauses out of fifty-nine have been agreed to, but there still remain several moot points of some importance, and notice has been given of several new clauses, including that for the admission of Dissenters, to be added to the bill. Considering that the Civil Service Estimates have yet to be overhauled—and they need it, for they are most extravagantly framed—and that the several taxation measures may even yet undergo some further discussion, the prospect of an early termination of the session is not promising, although it is commonly reported that we are to separate for the holidays early in July. If this be true, the Oxford University Bill will have to be added to the abortions of the session.

Nor that only. The five bills of the Attorney-General for the disfranchisement of individuals confessedly guilty of bribery at Hull, Canterbury, and the other boroughs recently visited by a Commission, have been withdrawn under pleas which reflect little credit on the Government. It seems that the schedules of those bills, containing the names of delinquents, have been so imperfectly made out, and present so many points for available attack, that the hope of passing the measures this session has been abandoned, and the abandonment of it was announced on Monday night. On this Mr. Disraeli made a few observations of a censorious but still good-tempered tone, which Lord John replied to in language more petulant and personally exasperating than dignified. This roused Disraeli, who made an extemporaneous defence of himself and his policy in comparison of that of the noble lord, which was amongst the most successful, and most intellectually powerful outbursts of indignant oratory that we have yet heard from the leader of the Opposition. He was, no doubt, in earnest too—which, for him, is a novel advantage—and if his language was less elaborately put together than usual, and his epithets less piquant, the deficiency was amply compensated for by the certainty that the eloquence was spontaneous. Sir George Grey stood up in passionate vindication of Lord John, but made no deep impression. Then Mr. Bright commented upon the scene which had just occurred, and showed its true moral. Without asperity, but with a severity which was keenly felt, he pointed out the seat of weakness in the coalition Ministry, and told them that nothing could keep them together but the war which their own dissensions had provoked. Two or three other speakers continued the unwelcome theme—unwelcome, we mean, to her Majesty's Ministers; and the House afterwards went into committee on the financial bills of the Chancellor, wherein the Secretary of the Treasury was more busy than successful.

There having been no more than thirty-seven members present at four o'clock yesterday afternoon, there was what is technically called "No House."

MINISTERIAL FAILURES AND PARLIAMENTARY CENSORS.

We by no means regard as misspent the time occupied in such "animated" discussions as that by which the House of Commons was enlivened on Monday night. Nor do we condemn as splenetic or factious the right hon. gentleman who raised it, and so effectively maintained it. For, next to its employment in the actual conduct of affairs, there can be no better expenditure of a Parliamentary sitting than in the measurement of progress or no-progress. And, among the functions of an Opposition leader, next to the resistance of specially obnoxious measures, is the exposure of general incapacity or mismanagement.

It is in its adaptation to provide efficient administrators, no less than to provide good legislation, that Parliamentary government is to be admired. A House of Commons is not merely a great national council: it is also the collective national faculty. From out of its ranks the Sovereign must seek to supply himself with men vigorous to act and sagacious to advise. The youth of our aristocracy, the flower of our universities, the eminent for ability and character, the remarkable for success or the promise of success—these are its materials; and if not from these, then from whence shall the greater and lesser offices of State be filled up? Such, we take it, is the true theory of our Parliamentary constitution; and such, on the whole, has been its operation. Notwithstanding the usurped, and for a long time almost exclusive, influence of the aristocracy in the House of Commons, that House has generally obtained for itself a large share of the offices in the gift of the Crown. For the most part, all its eminent members have sat on the Treasury bench at one time or another; and in those periods that have been remarkable for their calmness, it is observable, nearly all the talent of the House has been in the pay of the Sovereign. Macaulay describes it as the great merit of the first William Pitt, that he taught the aristocratic Pelhams and venal Walpoles the existence of a middle-class in the country, wielding the power of public opinion. Burke and Canning are other illustrious examples of the compulsion exercised by personal upon conventional forces. When our representative system is made to include a lower than the middle-class, there may be a demand on the part of hard-handed men fresh from the work-bench, for a place at the council-board. For the present, we must calculate that either the intellect of all parties in the House shall be honoured with recognition at St. James's, or there will be little peace on the floor of St. Stephen's. Men of talent will not, for nothing, be kept out of the national rewards of talent.

It was on this theory, we believe, the Government of Lord Aberdeen—like all previous Coalition Governments—was constructed. The colleagues respectively of Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell comprised, with two or three inevitable exceptions, all the eminent, established reputations in the Lower House. Disraeli, Cobden, and Bright were the exceptions. In every one of these instances, we believe, the cause of exclusion was not political, but personal. The Conservative leader was no whit more Conservative than Gladstone; the Manchester leaders had not exceeded in Radical professions Molesworth and Osborne. There existed no reason that could be openly stated, why the Coalition should not have included all these. If the efficient service of the country had been the single rule of action, the Cabinet would have been enlarged to the extent we have indicated. Of course, personal feeling must, in some degree, be consulted; but the rival financiers could scarcely have been more difficult to reconcile than the antipathetic diplomatists. Events have proved that questions of policy need not have narrowed the "broad bottomed Ministry;" for there have not been wider diversities of opinion without the Ministry than within. Nothing has been proposed which was not either easily carried against opposition directed at details, or rejected through the dissensions of its proposers. If each of the Ministers had thrown upon the table of the House a measure of his own device, framed on his own responsibility, without even the knowledge of his colleagues, and defended it against their criticisms in common with those of the Opposition and the Independents,—Ministerial unanimity would not have been more discredited than it has been, nor could the progress of business have been slower. The Cabinet of all the Talents has proved itself also the Ministry of Crotchets; one devoting himself to finance, another to sewerage, and a third to representatives and constituencies, with an excess of individualism that seems to have left them no time to compare opinions even on a European war. Why, then, not have compounded with fortune for a quiet session by making room for the only men whose exclusion could provoke to dangerous discontent?

Seriously, we say,—the Government have very gravely failed to realize the just and moderate expectations of the country. Admitting the necessity of coalition, and therefore of compromise, we were content to renounce the chance of concessions we should have had a right to demand from a purely Liberal Government—such as the ballot, and Church-rate abolition. We were willing to support a Ministry of administrative improvement, since we could not get a Ministry of constitutional progress. Above all, we had confidence they would preserve the peace of Europe, while showing no sympathy with absolutism. With the solitary exception of Mr. Gladstone, every one of them has not only failed to go right, but has gone wrong. Last year, everything was postponed to this—this year, everything is given up to something else. In their first session they produced a good budget, and nothing more—in the second session, they have produced, *ditto, ditto*. They have done nothing for religious liberty, and less than nothing for Parliamentary reform. They ought to have forced the Jewish Relief Bill through the Lords—they have got it rejected in the Commons. They could, at least, have punished the bribery that they had sent out commissioners to detect—they have given encouragement to the venal to make the best of another general election, while suspending the franchises of thousands of honest voters. They set out by branding with the foulest names the natural allies of England on the continent, and have now involved us in a war of undefined extent and for inscrutable objects. They insisted that Parliament should discuss nothing but the war, and have limited the discussion to the voting of supplies. Thus, they have made of none avail, for purposes of domestic legislation, the finest array of Parliamentary talent and strength possessed by any Ministry since that of 1806. Thus, too, they have exposed themselves to the embittered satire of an unscrupulous opponent, and the energetic complaints of able, independent supporters. And lastly, thus they have converted that vast fund of public confidence and respect which would have borne feebler Ministries into a position of impregnable power, into an angry distrust which may at any moment overthrow them. They have committed that worst error of which a statesman can be guilty,—made men regret their predecessors. In vain does Lord John protest his patriotism,—no one doubts it. In vain does he console himself by his faith in public justice,—he has more need of public mercy. He has united himself with men who cannot *act* with him, however blandly they may sit by his side. *He* is pledged to make progress—*they* are anxious only to live upon the disasters they were not wise enough to avert and are not strong enough to master. His position is one of fretful struggle and ignoble failure. If he permits his colleagues to burke six of his measures out of seven, why should he complain that an opponent will make the country conscious of the fact? He has no right to expect from another tenderness to the reputation to which he is himself so merciless.

NOTHING LIKE LEATHER.

"Our own correspondent," and "Voices from the Ranks"—the latter filtering through relations at home—agree in reporting that the stiff stock and pipe-clayed cross-belts which render the soldier at home an object of distressingly-elegant rigidity, produce in the East fainting and apoplexy. On the parade-ground of St. James' Park prolonged exercise cannot be held without fainting warriors having to be borne off the bloodless field;—on a few hours' march in the environs of Scutari, seventy men out of ninety are unable to keep step—drop off in weariness, perhaps in apoplexy. Among the spectators of the parade no cases of syncope occur—and in the neighbourhood of Scutari, Englishmen in "undress" voluntarily walk ten miles before dinner. The French troops, too, are agile as monkeys, and unwearied as camels. It's the stock that does it—the band of leather, high, stiff, and tight, which the British soldiers wears about his neck. If any one doubt the adequacy of this familiar article of costume to produce such remarkable cases of able-bodied debility, let him try the experiment of tightening his neckcloth till—like the Rifles at Gallipoli—he is "as red in the face as a turkey-cock." Or let him only observe the contrasting condition for work of two men, with and without such stiffenings. Did any one ever know a preacher eminent for his cravat who was also eminent for power of speech? or an "able editor" that did not prefer to write in his shirt-sleeves?

Why don't our troops adapt their costume to their change of climate? Either because it is no one's business to give the necessary permission, or because the possessor of that tremendous authority believes there is "nothing like leather" for a soldier's neckcloth. In the former case, our forces are exposed to strangulation for the same reason that they are exposed to rheumatism, and other campaigning unpleasantnesses—their tents taking water like sieves; their bedding having gone astray; such little comforts as coffee for the wearied and wine for the sick having been overlooked when the military chest was packed; and letters from home arriving not at all, or at the price of a week's pay. It can have been no one's business to look after these things, or they would have been looked after. But, perhaps, the Commander-in-Chief, or the Adjutant-General, feeling competent to bid the men throw away their stocks—as he certainly would to bid them throw away their guns, if they proved useless incumbrances—considers the fortunes of the campaign bound up with the muscles of the soldier's neck: as the old dragoon, in one of Scott's stories, foresaw the discomfiture at Drumclog, in that "new-fangled way of hanging the cartouch box."

Disgusted at these negligences and pedantries, the public are caught by the cry for a war minister. Let it be remembered, all would depend upon getting the right man. A meddler is not less mischievous than a martinet,—and a timid civilian would be useless against the force of military system. The only certain advantage would be,

that when questioned he could not say, as did Sir James Graham the other night, "I have no connexion with that department." We are already far too much habituated to reliance upon offices and functions; and there are always plenty to cry out, in the civilian interest, "There's nothing like leather!"

LORD STANLEY ON THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

THE Liberal leader of the Conservative party did not speak on Mr. M. Gibson's recent motion touching the law of periodical publications; and, as no division was taken, he could give no vote. He has repaired the omission by addressing to the Secretary of the Association for the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge, a letter that advocates the principal objects of that association; and presses for the immediate abolition of the newspaper stamp. His lordship's reasons for coming to this decision show an honest acuteness of mind, and are expressed with the force and boldness characteristic of his house. The argument of the following paragraph is particularly worthy of consideration:—

Justice has scarcely been done to the claim of the provincial press. Take such a case as this, and it is not an imaginary one. A local journal, published in a small borough, has 1,000 subscribers; of these, 900 live within the borough; their copies are consequently transmitted to them by hand, only the remaining 100 copies are sent by post; the charge for which, at 1d. each, would be 8s. 4d. But the law imposes, under the name of a postal charge, this penny tax on the whole 1,000 copies, amounting, in all, to £4 3s. 4d. on each impression; or, in other words, taxes the journal in question at the rate of 10d. for each copy which passes through the post-office. Can it be imagined that this injustice should be defended, as I have seen it defended, on the ground that what is thus taken from the small journalists is put into the pockets of his metropolitan rival? To those who apprehend that the character of journalism will suffer by an increase of cheap local papers, though holding their anticipations to be erroneous, I should reply simply by a refusal to discuss that question. We contend that as a matter, not of policy, but of simple justice, postal charges should fall only on those who benefit by the services of the post-office. Whatever may have been the private opinions of public men, no minister of late years has dared to avow that the stamp duty is imposed purposely as a check on low-priced periodical writing. To admit this, is to assert the principle of a censorship. For the existing duty, amounting to a tax of 100 per cent. on a penny journal, amounts, in fact, to a prohibition of all such journals. But, if this prohibition is designed, it ought to be put in express words. What the Legislature does should be done openly. The question, therefore, is reduced to this—whether Parliament will continue to limit the right of publication to journals sold at and above a certain price.

We regret to observe that the publication of this letter, together with that of the quarterly return of stamps, excites the ill-disguised displeasure of a Liberal daily contemporary. It is as we feared—Free-trade in journalism is not welcome to the proprietors of journals that have advocated Free-trade in all else; but found their advantage in monopoly here. We have ourselves not done ill under legislative protection, but we are sure we should have done better without it; and, had we hitherto resisted, instead of zealously advocating, the removal of the stamp, we think the mode in which Lord Stanley puts the case must have reached our understanding and conscience. As it is, we repeat, the public must see where the truth and justice of the matter lie; and insist upon the Legislature giving effect to that perception.

"LEARNING AND WORKING."

WE have received, and perused with great interest, the syllabus of a course of six lectures by the Rev. F. D. Maurice, on the great subject thus expressed; and with the practical object of establishing a People's College. It appears, in the first three lectures the ex-Professor proposes to show that the instruction of children is not the education of the people—and that there is no necessary disconnexion between manual labour and thorough intellectual culture; illustrating his position from the examples of eminent men and women. In the remaining lectures, the practical difficulties of the subject will be discussed. The lectures will be delivered at Willis's Rooms, on Thursday afternoons, commencing on the 8th of June; and though the rate of admission is high, we doubt not that the reputation of the lecturer and the magnitude of his topic will attract a full audience.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. BENJAMIN PARSONS, OF EBLEY.

We have now lying before us a proposal for a testimonial to this well-known and most indefatigable labourer in the field of human progress and general truth; and we are pleased to know that the proposal is being most heartily responded to from parties of all opinions, all colours of sentiment, and most opposite quarters of Great Britain, united by the single link of admiration for a most earnest heart and athletic mind. With our congratulation on the proposal we are compelled to mingle grief, for the occasion which has (not originated but) given an impulse to it, namely, the severe and prostrating illness of Mr. Parsons, who has been for some time laid aside from public duties, and is not likely yet for some time to resume them. Nor does it diminish our sympathy to know, that this moment of his severe illness has been seized on by the churchwardens of his parish to summons him for a Church-rate for the first time—a rate which Mr. Parsons has always steadily refused to pay. Intrepidity and consistency have been the guiding lights of his life, and our readers scarcely need to be told that they have made for him many foes. We trust it will now be found they have made for him many friends. His character is marked by a sturdy independence, fearlessness in truth-seeking and truth-speaking. He has been before the public now for about thirty years as a minister of the Gospel, but slightly even *that* term, which should represent and signify so much, represents the prodigality and affluence of his labours. The pulpit, of course—but in addition to the pulpit the platform, with which, in its various sections, he is as well acquainted as any man in England; the hustings, where he has thought it his duty not unfrequently to present himself with that rasping power of satire which makes him so terrible a foe; the pen, by which he has made himself known favourably, both in England and America, as the apostle of the temperance movement from its earliest days, by his "Anti-Bacchus," and the apologist and defender of the sex, thought to be the weakest, in his "Mental and Moral Dignity of Woman." It is difficult to name a noble principle, especially and peculiarly advocated in our age, of which Mr. Parsons has not been the exponent and the champion. He was among the first who laboured for the emancipation of the negro, and when Peter Borthwick made his appearance in Gloucestershire, the keen eye of our friend soon detected and exposed his fallacies. He preceded even the foremost men of his neighbourhood in his denunciation of the corn-laws; his speech at the ministerial meeting of delegates in Manchester was one of the most effective delivered there; and he has, as most of our readers know, been the uniform champion of a perfectly voluntary education.

We are desirous of saying some good words on his behalf. What better can we say, than that he is a fine living illustration of our own motto—that in him a man may see exemplified "the Dissidence of Dissent and the Protestantism of the Protestant Religion." He has, all his life, been an inflexible and invincible Nonconformist; he is wonderfully like an old Puritan, with the lights of the nineteenth century shining through his eyes, and the necessities of the nineteenth century meeting him at every turn. He is just such a man as Cromwell would have delighted to honour, and Owen and Howe, and Bates and Charnock, to have conversed with or have asked to occupy their pulpits.

Some of our readers who do not know the subject of our colloquy will think our vein *too* panegyrical. Let them step down to Gloucestershire and see; let them learn the state of his neighbourhood when he first became the pastor there, over a church and congregation of, we believe we are right in saying, about fifty people, in a dilapidated old tabernacle; and now a large and most interesting chapel, though plain, and a large and most intelligent congregation, though poor; let them look at the handsome schools, for boys and girls, which have inoculated the neighbourhood for miles round with the desire of education—for Mr. Parsons preceded all his neighbourhood in the establishment of schools, and himself contributed £25 when quite a poor man—the half of the sum he received for the copyright of "Anti-Bacchus" (we must let out this fact, although he is a man of all men who desires to let his left hand know nothing of what his right hand does.) His work on education is, in many particulars, the best popular exposition of the whole question from the voluntary point of vision, and a copy of it should be in the hand of every schoolmaster and minister in the kingdom. Thus at home leading a severe and prudent life, denying himself of all luxuries of board and banquet, to be girt and road-ready for the pathway of benevolence and goodness, he has taught the lessons of prudence to his congregation, and, in travelling from place to place, to the kingdom too. One cause of prejudice against him arises from his energetic and constant advocacy of the cause of the people, especially of the working classes. Mr. Parsons has been faithful to them, he has reproved their sins and their vices, but he has ever asserted their claims to political rights, steadily, not spasmodically. We had it from good authority—and perhaps the fact may be new to Mr. Parsons himself—that when the mistaken political fanatics among the mountains of Wales were proposing in council or committee to sweep through the manufacturing districts of Gloucestershire, the proposal was rejected, because, it was said, Benjamin Parsons is there, and he will oppose us, and the working men have confidence in him.

This is the man, then, whom this testimonial is intended to honour! Mr. Parsons has been too prudent a man, we may be bold to say, to make such a testimonial absolutely necessary;—it is not a testimonial of charity, or of commiseration, but emphatically one of honour! and yet this rich soul is poor comparatively in the world's circumstances, for he has refused all offers to leave Ebley, although lucrative ones have been made. Testimonials have not always been very palatable to us; we have seen little necessity that orators, who for their paltry modicum of service had been well and amply paid, should be remunerated still further by presents for their two or three nights' labour of a hundred guineas or services of plate. This testimonial has certainly been well earned, and will, we think, be most fitting and graceful, for it is honour to labour—it is a eulogy on a workman; and the chaplet so well deserved will, we believe, be twisted into such a shape that it shall sit usefully and comfortably, as well as honourably, on the brow.

This is our word for the man who has been styled the Oberlin of Gloucestershire: he reminds us, too, in many features, of wonderful Robert Walker, of Seathwaith, whom Wordsworth has immortalised in the pages of the "Excursion." Those who know Mr. Parsons best will think the following lines very happily descriptive of him:—

In a vale
A priest abides, before whose life doubts
Fall to the ground, whose gifts of nature lie
Retired from notice.
In this one man is shown a temperance proof
Against all trials; industry severe,
And constant as the motion of the day.
Stern self-denial round him spread; with shade
That might be deemed forbidding, did not there
All generous feelings flourish and rejoice,—
Forbearance, charity in deed and thought,
And resolution, competent to take
Out of the bosom of simplicity
All that her holy customs recommend,
And the best ages of the world prescribe.
Preaching, administering in every work
Of his sublime vocation, in the walks
Of worldly intercourse between man and man,
And in his humble dwelling,—he appears
A labourer with moral virtue girt,
With spiritual graces like a glory crowned.

A gentleman connected with *Bell's Life* has recovered £400 damages from the Great Northern Railway Company, for damage sustained during a collision on that line.

John Atkinson, organist of Appleby church, a man about twenty-eight years old, was brought before the sitting magistrates at the Court House, Carlisle, on Saturday, charged with the crime of abduction, having carried off from a boarding school at Appleby to Gretna Green, a Miss Ann Jane Ward, the daughter of Mr. Ward, a gentleman of highly respectable connections, residing in the neighbourhood of Windermere. Atkinson was engaged to teach the young lady music at a boarding school; they were married by John Murray, at Sarkbar (Gretna). Atkinson has been fully committed. The young lady is only twelve years old, having been born on the 6th of April, 1842. She is tall and stout for that age. Both Atkinson and she say they were legally married, and are determined to have each other.

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.—In 1851 there were 2,407,642 scholars upon the books of the Sunday-schools in England and Wales. About three-eighths were in the Sunday-schools of the Church of England, the rest were divided among the various denominations of Dissenters and the Roman Catholics, the largest share being taken by the Wesleyans (the original connexion), who had nearly half as many scholars as the Church of England. The number of teachers was 318,135, chiefly young persons; 10,383 (almost all in the Church of England schools) were paid teachers, supposed to be mostly the masters and mistresses of National Schools. It has been estimated that the number of Sunday-scholars under six years of age is about a sixth of the whole number, and that the proportion above fifteen is at least a tenth of the whole. In the manufacturing districts the proportion above fifteen is very much larger than in London; the senior classes comprise many young persons of eighteen or nineteen, and the course of instruction in those classes is of a superior character. Many Sunday-schools sustain week-evening classes, where the scholars are instructed in some secular art or knowledge; many have libraries for the scholars' use (and it must be recollected that the books are often read by the families of the scholars); and some have originated for the senior scholars "mutual improvement societies," where lectures are delivered and other means of intellectual progress are provided. Sick clubs, too, and provident clubs, and penny banks, are frequently established in connexion with the Sunday school. Excursions and festivals, in which the children and their teachers join in recreation, are now universal. Thus there is in some degree (although too small) a constant kindly intercourse between the different classes of society; and thus, perhaps, are being gradually fostered in the minds of the working people juster sentiments than hitherto have been received of the disposition of the class by fortune placed above them. But in this department of its usefulness the Sunday school is yet but in its infancy, awaiting, probably, the time when ministers and influential members of the church shall recognize its undeveloped power for good. —*Census of Education.*

THE WAR.

BOMBARDMENT OF HANGO.

The *Moniteur* publishes a telegraphic despatch, dated Copenhagen, Sunday evening, from which it appears that three steam frigates have destroyed the detached forts at Hango, with a loss of three English killed and a few wounded. The loss of the Russians was considerable. On the 23rd, Admiral Napier was off Hango, and about to attack the principal fort. [The report published in our last number of the destruction of the castle of Gustavsvärn and the capture of 1,500 prisoners turns out to be totally untrue.]

A letter from an officer in Sir Charles Napier's fleet says:—

A division of the Russian fleet has left Revel, and united with the eight sail of the line at Helsingfors. It is not probable that any attack will be made on the enemy until the arrival of the French fleet, which sailed some time since. Port Baltic, Revel, and Riga, on the southern, and Hango Udde on the northern coast of the Gulf of Finland, are the ports which the allied fleets will most probably bombard. Helsingfors is deemed almost impregnable, and may not inaptly be termed the Gibraltar of the Baltic. The entrance to its harbour, within which the Russian fleet is lying, is not of greater width than 150 yards, and commanded by batteries of a most formidable description. The general opinion is, that to attack it by the sea alone would be futile, and result much to the discomfiture of the Anglo-French fleet.

The exchange of couriers between London and Stockholm is very frequent. Two special messengers passed through Hamburg on Saturday—one coming from London the other from Stockholm; both were the bearers of despatches for the respective Governments. There is little doubt but that important negotiations are pending between these two courts, and that they are on the eve of conclusion.

It is reported in Paris that 12,000 French troops and 5,000 English have been ordered to Sweden, to support the expected declaration of war by that power against Russia.

PRIZES SEIZED IN A RUSSIAN PORT.

The dashing character of our navy is well illustrated in the following extract of a letter from Her Majesty's ship *Amphion*, off Memel, May 19th, which describes the seizure of eight prizes at Libau two days previously. "On the 17th the *Amphion*, 34, screw, Captain Astley Key, and *Conflict* 8, screw, Captain Arthur Cumming, received orders to get up steam and to anchor about a mile off the town of Libau. At noon Captain Cumming was despatched to summon the town to surrender at discretion, and deliver up within three hours the whole of the shipping in the harbour, and on these conditions the whole of the town would be spared. At 3 p.m. an answer was returned that, as the Governor had no means of successfully resisting an attack from the power brought against them, he threw himself and the inhabitants on the mercy of the commander of the British squadron. Their shipping was up a very narrow creek, and both sides lined with houses, from which we might have sustained some heavy damage; but they have no forts, and therefore we could have bombarded the town and shipping. At five we manned and armed boats under our respective officers, commanded by the captains, and fully prepared to guard against treachery or anything that might turn up. However, no impediment was offered, and the boats pulled up about two miles. The officers and crews left in the ships waited with extreme anxiety until they observed a movement among the enemy's ships, and right glad were they to perceive them, one by one, brought down the creek towards us. At eight o'clock we were gratified in being surrounded by eight prizes—quite a little fleet—sorry to say, though, they were empty; one other was partially scuttled. There were also two vessels on the stocks, and three aground scuttled. The inhabitants looked on while this cool proceeding was taking place without expressing any angry feelings. They took it as a matter of course, and seemed thankful that the town was not battered about their ears—in fact, they seemed astonished at our clemency. As to our sailors, it seemed to them a matter of amusement, and they got the vessels under weigh with the same coolness as if they were going out of Portsmouth-harbour. The following day the *Amphion* and *Conflict* proceeded to Memel with the prizes, each vessel taking four in tow."

THE FRENCH FLEET IN THE BALTIC.

On the 24th, the French fleet, consisting of eight sail of the line, four frigates, and three steam sloops, was in Kiel Bay. They are expecting an addition of three frigates, four steamers, and one liner of 100 guns. The whole force will then consist of about 1,200 guns and 14,000 men. It is stated that the reason of the long delay of the French squadron has been contrary and light winds, besides the anxiety of the Admiral to convey his ships through the narrow passages of the Belt without running any risk of their getting on shore. The most efficient of the French ships is the *Duguescelin*, under Contre-Amiral Tenant, in which the crew has served upwards of fifteen months; on board most of the other ships the men are of a more mixed description, and the majority of them very young in the service. The men are daily exercised with muskets and small arms, and are drilled by the marine officers; they are also exercised regularly at the guns when at sea, and are becoming very proficient in handling them. The railway trains from Altona are crammed with visitors anxious to see the fleet. The correspondent of the *Times*, having been on board the *Gemappes*, 92, says, his impression is strong that the French navy will make itself a glorious name during the conflict with Russia. The crews of all the ships appear in excellent spirits, and ready for anything. They are well taken care of. Their dinner fare consists of well cooked beef, soup, and vegetables, with a ration of wine (Bordeaux) afterwards, instead of our men's grog. In the morning the crew have coffee, with a ration of brandy and a couple of large biscuits, in a square form, and of very excellent quality. In the evening they have another ration of brandy or wine, instead of tea or coffee.

OPERATIONS IN THE BLACK SEA.

On the 11th the combined fleets were still cruising before Sebastopol. The steamers *Retribution* and *Highflyer* have captured two Russian transports, conveying munitions of war, specie, and 150 soldiers. Accounts from the fleet state that for five or six days after the departure of Sir E. Lyons for the Circassian coast a succession of dense fogs had prevailed throughout the Black Sea; the steamers were therefore unable to approach the coast until the 9th, when they stood in two divisions to Kaffa and towards Kertch. The batteries at Kaffa, of which much had been said, proved to be of little importance. The Admiral did not waste time there, but proceeded on his way to the Circassian coast. The *Firebrand* and *Niger* were together in the endeavour to approach Kertch. While chasing a brig the *Niger* grounded in water marked deep on the chart. The Russians, on whose charts the sailors of other nations have mainly depended, would almost seem to have purposely published false soundings with the view to deceive an enemy. By the aid of the *Firebrand*, the *Niger* was at length got off, though with some difficulty. She sustained, however, no material damage. The batteries at Kertch are said to be of considerable strength.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Admiral Dundas, and dated off Odessa:—

I own I feel annoyed at the remarks of a portion of the press at my lying all the winter at Therapia. If I had not done so, and had cruised for two months (in peace time), and had exposed my ships by such a foolish plan, what a state they would have been in, instead of, as they now are, in the finest condition imaginable! We arrived at Varna without a want, and found an aide-de-camp from Omar Pasha, expressing a wish that early in April I would come near him; and there I was all ready, and in conjunction with the French fleet (18 sail-of-the-line) and a dozen steamers. We are on the best possible terms with the French, and the utmost cordiality exists between us. Would you believe that the report of the Russian fleet having left Sebastopol, and landed troops on the Danube, was all a falsehood and destitute of truth? I had steam frigates cruising all round the Black Sea watching their movements; not one ship has ever left that port since we entered it. A few days ago we gave Odessa a little of our shot and shell. It was well done by the steamers, five English and four French, with six rocket-boats. I spared the town, and in a few hours we could have knocked both it and the mole where the neutral ships were, into one mass of fire. The fort, Imperial mole, and Russian shipping were all destroyed. I did, in conjunction with my French colleague, what we considered our duty after the flag of truce had been fired on. Our guns carry beautifully.

RUSSIA AND THE CIRCASSIAN COAST.

It is now reported that the Russians, unable, on account of the blockade, to defend the seaboard of Circassia, have evacuated all their positions from Batoum to Anapa—an extent of 200 leagues. They burned all their own forts, and retired to Kutais in the interior. The Circassians came down from the mountains and took posts which the Russians had occupied, making prisoners 1,500 men, whom they surprised at Sukkum-Kaleh. The Circassians had proclaimed a provisional government, under the presidency of a brother-in-law of Schamyl. This intelligence must be received with the greatest caution. Several narratives, more ingenious than accurate, have come from the same source. Anapa and Souchoum-Kaleh are both places of great strength, and are not likely to be abandoned while any means of holding them remained.

THE SIEGE OF SILISTRIA.

On the Danube, Prince Paskiewitsch has concentrated his forces and the interest of the campaign on Silistria, which place is now closely invested by the enemy. In spite of the natural imperfections of this fortress, it has more than once heroically withstood the attacks of the Russians, and in 1828 it defied all the power that could be brought against it. There is little doubt that if the fortress does fall into the hands of the Russians it will be in a ruin. Mussa Pasha, the commander, is a scientific officer of artillery, and as brave as a lion; he is ably supported by Lieutenant Kracht, one of the Prussian officers of instruction, who is said to possess as much energy of character as his commander. The artillery is good, and there are besides a great number of large mortars in the fortress. On the 16th terms of capitulation were offered to Mussa Pasha, but these were rejected, and on the 17th the bombardment re-commenced. We are told that General Schilders, commanding the Russian Engineers, had got seventy guns in position, but it is not clear whether he had begun to operate against the place by regular approaches, or whether the bombardment is still carried on from the opposite bank of the river. The town and its defences had, however, already suffered severely. A private telegraphic despatch had been received from Vienna, announcing that the storming of the fort of Abdul Medjid by the Russians was followed by its capture, not, however, without a loss to them of 1,500 men. The loss since the beginning of the operations against Silistria is estimated at from 7,000 to 8,000.

Prior to the investment of Silistria a series of engagements are reported to have taken place on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of May, below Basardschik, between the Russian division under General Gronthemjelm, and the Turks under Ismail Pasha, to the number of 12,000 men, who occupied an intrenched camp. According to Russian accounts the affair ended disastrously for the Turks, as they quitted their strong position and fell back on Paravady. The Russians are said to have crossed the Danube in great force from Oltenitza to Turtukai, and it is thought the siege of Rustchuk will be carried on simultaneously with that of Silistria. General Leprandi is on the line of the Aluta with 3,000 men, but does not seem inclined to dispute the possession of Little Wallachia with the Turks. The preparations in the way of provisions, &c., in Wallachia and Bessarabia, are on a very large scale. The whole store of ammunition which was at Fokschani has been removed to Berlad (Byrlat), which is further *north* on the road to Jassy. Above 1,000 persons are in prison in Wallachia, on suspicion either of a friendly feeling towards, or some intercourse with, the Turks. The 6th corps coming from Moscow, and originally intended for the Danube, has received another destination, probably to the Crimea. The active Danubian army will thus be weaker than was expected by some 50,000 men and 60 guns.

We hear nothing of General Luder's proceedings, whose corps in the Dobrudscha does not exceed 35,000 men. It is supposed that a division of the British army would be on his flank in less than a week. It is the custom of the inhabitants of the Dobrudscha to hide away their provisions. In that country, where it was believed that no more supplies could be obtained for the Turkish army, the Russians are said to have found 4,000,000 kilos of grain.

One hundred and fifty Bashi-Bazouks, who came from Albania under pretence of joining the army, having committed all kinds of excesses, the Muchir of Roumelia sent out a body of cavalry against them. 120 had been taken.

THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Marshal St. Arnaud has been named Generalissimo of the Anglo-French and Turkish armies. It is probable that, by this time, an Anglo-French division is at Adrianople. Quarters and provisions had been provided there for 40,000 men as early as the 11th May. The reports from Constantinople state the troops were all healthy, and would, it was supposed, move in a day or two. Lord Raglan was about leaving for Varna, Omer Pasha having asked for 40,000 troops previous to the end of the month. General Baraguay d'Hilliers was to leave Constantinople on the 20th, and has probably by this arrived at Marseilles. Our troops in the barracks and camp of Selimieh amount at present to about 17,000 men, and our horse artillery is stationed at Couleli, on the Bosphorus.

A letter from a private soldier in one of the regiments at Boulair, to his sister, dated May 9, complains of the heavy postage, 1s. 4d. per letter, as a reason for not writing earlier. The weather had been wet, and the rain came through the tents "almost like a fine colander." Hard, too, had been the work of digging trenches and throwing up batteries on the muddy ground: but he says, "thanks and praise be to God, we have most excellent health." He is astonished that, notwithstanding the constant change in the climate—wet, cold, heat—"all are well." But the chief aim of some of the men seemed to be "to get as much of the very bad drinks that are here as they can;" and he predicts that many will meet the enemy confirmed drunkards. He says that the great complaint is, "that the Government at home does not send out suitable provisions;" no warm drink, such as tea or coffee, no milk, nothing but "a pound of beef and a pound of bread" a day. "England," he adds, "is both unkind and ungrateful to its army; they know their wants, still they will not alleviate them in the least. But as we are healthy and well we will not complain; but on the other hand, should sickness break out among us, the fault would rest upon the backs of them who might made things far different if they would."

The French have been establishing a line of mechanical telegraphs (post-and-arm telegraphs of the old system) between Gallipoli and Adrianople.

The *Times* correspondent at Constantinople, under date May 15th, states that the stream of visitors, chiefly from England, continues. The Americans are also numerous. Visitors to Shumla would *now* "excite a smile by hinting their hopes of a place on Omar Pasha's staff." The place is a wretched, "dirty Bulgarian town."

There is nothing to be done at present—so far, at least, as depends on the Turkish commander. His plans are to concentrate and discipline his forces, to improve his officers, and give the steady valour of his men some advantages of science and skill. He labours patiently, hampered as he is by the authorities of the capital, and pestered by vacant and staring tourists, who invade his divan, and seem to think his only occupation is to see that they and their servants are made comfortable.

A good deal of drunkenness prevails amongst the soldiers. No small amount of sickness is likely to prevail among the inexperienced Europeans, unless they change their system of walking the streets at midnight, and eating large meat dinners, accompanied by fiery liquids, as at home. "The English are striding about with walkingsticks under the blazing sun, and return from a ten miles' walk to a dinner such as would be appropriate to an English December!" The Duke of Cambridge now shares with Prince Napoleon the homage of Pera.

OCCUPATION OF GREECE BY THE ALLIED POWERS.

The Paris *Moniteur* of Saturday, announces the intended occupation of Greece by the Allied Powers in the following article:—

The serious subjects of discontent which the attitude of the Greek Government, and its evident participation in the disturbances in Epirus and Thessalonia, have given to France and England, are well known. No warning has been wanting to the Cabinet of Athens, which has fatally persisted in taking no account either of its duties of gratitude towards us, or of the interest of the country which it governs. The insurrection was overcome by the Ottoman troops, and condemned by the good sense of the people. The Greek Government, impelled by an incomprehensible blindness, organized a fresh outbreak on the frontiers, and found, for the expenses of this disloyal war, resources which its treasury, exhausted by deplorable bad management, is not in a condition to supply. In a word, it makes itself the paid auxiliary of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg. Our political interests, the success of our military combi-

nations, and our dignity itself, demanded that an end should be put to such a state of things, and General Forey, commanding the 4th division of the army of the East, received orders to proceed to the Piræus, of which he will take possession. A body of English marines, placed under the orders of the French general, will form part of this expedition, which by this time must have attained its object. France and England do not declare war against Greece; they wish to withdraw her Government from the disastrous influences to which it has yielded, and offer to it a last chance of salvation.

General Forey has since received counter orders to proceed straight to Constantinople. The division which is now being concentrated at Avignon will occupy Greece.

The rebellion in Thessaly is said to be gaining ground again. The French steamer *Gomer* had brought four piratical vessels into Rhodes. The *Trieste Zeitung* says that the ultimatum to Greece demands the observance of a strict neutrality, and the punishment of all those who have joined the rebellion; the immediate recall of all civil and military officers who have joined it, and the refusal to re-admit into the public service those who had resigned office, or left to join the insurgents. If these categorical demands are not granted by the 22nd, the throne to be declared vacant, and a new government established. A strict blockade of the Greek coast is expected. The Greek insurgents under Karatassos have been defeated in Macedonia. Revolutionary committees are recruiting among the Roumeliotes and Ionians.

THE TREATY BETWEEN FRANCE, ENGLAND, AND TURKEY.

The *Moniteur* of Wednesday published the text of the treaty concluded between England, France, and Turkey. The preamble states that the Emperor of the French and the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, "fully persuaded that the existence of the Ottoman empire, within its actual limits, is essential to the maintenance of the balance of power between the states of Europe," have consented, at the request of the Sultan, to aid him in repelling the aggression of the Emperor of Russia. By the conditions of the treaty, the Emperor and the Queen are bound to assist the Sultan with such land-troops as are necessary to repel the aggression; stipulating that these troops shall receive from the Sultan similar treatment to that experienced by the naval forces of France and England. All the parties to the treaty bind themselves to communicate to each other any propositions received by any one of them, directly or indirectly, from the Emperor of Russia; and the Sultan engages not to conclude any armistice, enter into any negotiation, or conclude any preliminary or any treaty of peace, without the knowledge and consent of England and France. It is also provided, that the Ottoman authorities shall not exercise any control over the auxiliary armies; that the plans of the campaign shall be discussed and agreed upon by the three commanders; and that no operations shall be undertaken by the Ottoman troops, when in line with the allies, without previous concert. The allied commanders undertake to observe strict discipline, and to cause property to be respected; and the Ottomans to pay every attention to the requirements of the allies relative to the wants of the service. At the conclusion of peace, the allies are to withdraw within forty days.

A convention between France and England, regulating the mode of adjudging and distributing the prizes captured in the present war, by the allied fleet, has been published in the *Moniteur*.

THE AUSTRO-PRUSSIAN TREATY.

The offensive and defensive treaty between Austria and Prussia has been published. It opens with a recital of the motives which have led the two powers to unite during the existence of the war. The King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria express their profound regret at the fruitlessness of their efforts to prevent the outbreak of war, and are led to unite in consideration of the moral obligations of the last Vienna protocol, and the constant augmentation of military measures on both sides. The main provisions of the treaty are these:—The parties to it guarantee to each other the possession of their German and non-German territories; they bind themselves to safeguard German interests in case one should be obliged to act; to hold a force prepared for war; to invite all the German states to enter the alliance; and to declare that neither will conclude any separate treaty not in harmony with this treaty. An "additional article" and a "single article" are added. The former states that the two powers regard the prolongation of the occupation of the Principalities as dangerous for Germany; that they desire not to participate in the war, and at the same time to aid in the re-establishment of peace. "They especially consider the explanations recently given by the Court of St. Petersburg, at Berlin, whereby Russia appears to consider the original cause of occupying the Principalities as set aside by the concessions now made to, and in many respects carried out in favour of, the Porte's Christian subjects, as a powerful element of pacification, which they could only deeply deplore were they to see it deprived of further practical influence." They trust the reply to certain Prussian propositions transmitted on the 8th would offer the required security for the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

The "single article" binds the Emperor of Austria to make propositions for the suspension of any further advance of the Russian troops, and to obtain securities for their speedy evacuation of the Principalities; and the King of Prussia to support them. Should the replies afford no hope of compliance, then one of the Powers will adopt measures to obtain the same. "An offensive action on the part of both would, however, be first occasioned by the incorporation of the Principalities, or through an attack or passage of the Balkan on the part of Russia."

THE GERMAN POWERS.

The Conference at Vienna has again assembled, and has drawn up a new protocol. By this protocol, it is said, the Four Powers fully "recognise and adopt" the treaties concluded between France and England, and Austria and Prussia, respectively. The *Moniteur* speaks of it as destined to unite the Anglo-French convention and the Austro-Prussian treaty to the engagements entered into in the protocol of the 9th of April. "The Anglo-French convention concerning the existing war is thus connected with the Austro-Prussian treaty concerning a war which is at present eventual. The integrity of the Ottoman territory, and its evacuation by the Russians, remain the common and constant aim of the four Cabinets, which now give a new proof of their firm intention to combine their efforts for its attainment."

According to advices from Frankfort of the 25th, the Ministers of Austria and Prussia have presented to the Diet the joint declaration of Austria and Prussia, announcing the continued cordiality of the Four Powers, and declaring that the prolongation of the struggle between Russia and Turkey constituted a danger for Germany, and that the integrity of Turkey must be maintained. After this declaration five protocols of the proceedings of the Vienna Conference were laid before the Diet, the fact of the Austro-Prussian treaty was notified to that assembly, and the other German States were invited to adhere to it.

It appears from subsequent advices that the adhesion of the Germanic Confederation to the Austro-Prussian treaty is secured. A committee has been appointed by the Frankfort Diet to prepare the document of adhesion.

The general tenor of the correspondence from Vienna indicates a widening of the breach between Russia and Austria. The military officers, however, are still generally favourable to the former power. Not so with the citizens of Vienna, amongst whom the feeling of opposition to Russia is very strong. Letters from that capital speak of the commercial situation in which Austria has been placed by Russia as intolerable. During the last six months the export trade has been almost annihilated, chiefly owing to the occupation of the Principalities, and the obstacles to the Danubian navigation. These evils are directly charged on Russia; but the depreciation of the currency, so harassing to the masses, raising the price of commodities 40 per cent., is felt to be the work of the Government itself.

The greatest energy is displayed in forwarding the troops to Gallicia. The Archduke Albrecht has removed his head-quarters to Hermannstadt, in Transylvania. A Russian artillery park of twenty guns has already reached Kielce, where one of the three corps is to be placed.

In illustration of the popular feeling in Prussia it may be mentioned, that a few days ago General Bonin, who lately left the Berlin Cabinet on account of his anti-Russian views, was greeted by loud hurrahs at the supper-table in a public hotel at Breslau. As the gallant general withdrew as quickly as possible, it is to be supposed he did not approve of this indirect condemnation of the policy of his royal master.

A Greek bishop was arrested at Pesth on the evening of the 16th, as a Russian emissary, and taken to the New Building, where political offenders are kept. Important papers, it is said, were found on his person.

The carrying of articles contraband of war in Austrian vessels is prohibited, and will be punished accordingly. Austrian vessels on the open sea must submit to search. The only Austrian port to which captured vessels can be taken is Trieste, but they can only be sold when condemned as lawful prizes by a competent court.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The yearly outlay for the additional levy by Austria of 95,000 men, will be 20,000,000 florins!

The King of Prussia has conferred orders of various degrees upon nine officers of the Russian army, all now in active service.

On the 12th the life of Prince Paskiewitsch was in some danger at Kalarasch. A shell burst and killed an officer who was standing close to him.

The Czar will bring the influence of his Imperial presence to bear on the military operations at the Danubian seat of war next month.

The Russian prisoners taken in the different prizes and sent from time to time on board the *Crocodile*, lying off the Tower, to the number of forty, have obtained employment in the British merchant service.

The *Ann M'Alister* sailed from Cronstadt on the 15th instant. Sir Hamilton Seymour's property had been shipped on board a Prussian vessel, which had not sailed on the 16th.

The British Consul-General at St. Petersburg, Mr. de Michele, has left that city at the desire of the Russian Government. He passed through Konigsberg on the 18th May.

A medal has just been struck in Paris to commemorate the triple alliance of France, England, and Turkey. It bears the motto, "Catholicism, Protestantism, Islamism—God protects them."

By order of the French Minister of War, the English airs, "God save the Queen" and "Rule Britannia," and the march of "The Grand Sultan Abdul Medjid Khan," shall in future form part of the repertory of all the bands of the army.

Government officials are in the north of England and Midland Counties inspecting the prisons and barracks, with a view to finding accommodation in the interior of the country for the prisoners of war that may be taken.

The English and French Governments have each made a contract to take 3,000 tons per month of coal from the pits at Kozlou, near Heraclia. The coal is to be put on board at a price of 19s. 6d. per ton, and will be of the greatest service to the steam fleet in the Black Sea.

The speeches of Mr. Bright, M.P., on the Eastern question, have been carefully translated and printed in the Russian papers; and, gathered together, they are published in divers Slavonic dialects. The special correspondent of the *Times*, whose letters from Gallipoli attacked our commissariat and other arrangements, shares the honours with Mr. Bright.

The Emperor of the French has conferred the cross of the Legion of Honour on F. T. Abbé, master gunner on board the steam-frigate *Mogador*, who particularly distinguished himself at the bombardment of Odessa. Thirteen medals of honour have also been granted by the Emperor to the seamen of other ships who signalised themselves on the same occasion.

Various points of the coast are to be strengthened and fortified. At Liverpool, a new ten-gun battery is nearly completed, commanding the mouth of the Mersey; at Sunderland, two heavy guns will be mounted on the South pier, and a five-gun battery will be established between the North pier and Roker; and Dover Castle is under works to render it more secure.

The *Patrie* says that every commanding officer in the Russian service is bound to make three reports of any battle in which he may be engaged—one to the Czar alone, in which he must tell the truth; a second to the Minister of War, in which he tells such lies as he may think adapted for general circulation; and a third, which is printed in the Russian language only, and posted in all the churches. This last contains lies of the grossest kind, and care is always taken that it shall not penetrate into Europe.

The Portuguese Government has issued a decree, duly prefaced by a Ministerial report, announcing that absolute neutrality will be observed by Portugal with respect to the powers that are actually engaged in war; and prohibiting the fitting out of privateers in Portuguese harbours, or the entrance of privateers and prizes into those harbours, except in cases of necessity. This decree is dated the 5th May. A Russian envoy had already arrived in Lisbon, *incognito*.

The Essex Rifle Regiment of Militia, 700 strong, under the command of Lord Jocelyn, arrived at the Eastern Counties Shoreditch station on Thursday, from Colchester, and marched to the Tower, to do garrison duty there. Their uniform is a rifle-green tunic and trousers, shot belt and pouch; and their arms a short rifle, a cut-and-thrust sword, which may be fixed as a bayonet. This is the first militia regiment called on for garrison duty.

It is calculated that the loss of life, on the side of the Russians, in the wars of Circassia, Persia, Turkey, Poland and Hungary, during the last twenty-five years, amounts to more than a million of men. Probably if the loss of life on the part of those who fought against the aggressions of Russia, during the same time, could be calculated, it would be found that neither Julius Cæsar, Alexander, nor even Tamerlane, has been a greater scourge to the human race than the present Emperor Nicholas.

Much attention has of late been paid at Berlin to the circumstance of several Russian diplomatists and noblemen in the Russian service being connected by marriage with English and German families. Thus, the sister of Count Woronzoff is lady Pembroke (she is not, however, the mother, but the step-mother of Mr. Sidney Herbert); the youngest daughter of Count Nesselrode, wife of the Saxon ambassador Von Scebach, dined the other day at the Tuileries; and the Baroness of Meyendorff, wife of the Russian ambassador at Vienna, is actually the sister of Count Buol Von Schauenstein, the present Prime Minister and confidant of the youthful Emperor of Austria.

Foreign and Colonial News.

ITALY.

The National Guards of the districts round Spezzia have arrested several refugees making their way into Tuscany; and have seized three hundred muskets and double-barrelled carbines. The Austrians have reinforced the garrison of Massa, and the Sardinian troops are set to watch the coast about Lavenza.

It is stated that a contingent of 25,000 men has been demanded by France from the Sardinian Government for the purposes of the Eastern war. The Sardinian Government is said to have declared that it did not desire better than to co-operate with the Western Powers, but that the present state of the finances did not permit it to grant so large a body on foot.

Poerio has been subjected to fresh persecutions. About sixty miles south of Naples stands the prison of Montefusco, repaired expressly to receive the political prisoners of 1848. In five small chambers of that edifice there are sixty persons confined, chiefly gentlemen of fortune and members of the learned professions. The room in which Poerio wears out existence is guarded by a soldier, who opens one window every half-hour night and day, and reports the safety of his prisoner. Another window is always open, so that the prisoners are perpetually exposed to the cold. The soldiers are rewarded for reporting what they hear or say they hear; and recently, on the information of one of these worthies, that a piece of paper had been thrown out of the window suggesting the poisoning of the soldiers, all the prisoners were chained to the wall by way of punishment; this was continued for some time.

Recently, several men accused of belonging to a secret society were put on their trial, as it is called, at Portenza, before judges sent from Naples. The public prosecutor considered that *eight* were guilty, and demanded sentence of death against three. The judges sentenced *ten* to death, and four to heavy imprisonments. The judges gain Court favour by surpassing the Crown prosecutor in severity.

The Neapolitan official journal of the 18th, contains a decree ordering the observance of neutrality laid

down by the Western Powers, as regards shipping and the export of war materials. No letters of marque will be allowed, and Neapolitan subjects are prohibited from taking service in privateers. "The misery amongst the poor" (says a letter from Naples), "is increased, and will, I fear, continue increasing, as there is again a doubt both as regards the vintage and harvest. The Government pretends to be neutral, but is Russian to the backbone. The large army alone, costs about a million a year more than the entire income of the State."

Letters of the 20th May, mention the uneasiness produced at Rome by the presence of Garibaldi at Genoa. The Pope attended Cardinal Lambruschini's funeral, and the Secretary of State took possession of his most lucrative offices. The Consulta tribunal confirmed the sentence of death on the 17th against the supposed murderers of Rossi. The Pope's intention is still doubtful. The fortifications and garrison of Ancona have been just strengthened.

AMERICA.

The debate on the Nebraska Bill, in the House of Representatives, was limited to the 20th instant, and it was generally expected to be carried.

We have intelligence from Mexico to the effect that Alvarez has succeeded, by a strategical movement, in placing himself between Santa Anna and the capital, thus cutting off all supplies. The army of Santa Anna was reduced to a deplorable state, from want and the climate of the mountains, to which his men were unaccustomed. It is also stated that the State of Queretaro was in a state of revolution, and that the disaffection was spreading rapidly.

Advices from Venezuela to the 25th ult., state that the act emancipating the slaves came into operation on the day specified and created much attention. The slaves, after the promulgation of the law, went about their usual avocation.

According to the *New York Evening Post*, Mr. Webb, the ship-builder, has resolved, under the advice of high authority, to continue the construction of the Russian man-of-war now on the stocks.

The caloric ship *Ericsson*, which was capsized on her trial trip in the Hudson River, was raised on the 11th; her hull and engines were not damaged.

According to the *Herald*, President Pierce, in his anticipated message respecting the *Black Warrior* affair, will recommend the blockade of Cuba and Porto Rico.

From Havannah we learn that the Governor-General had officially denied the existence of a treaty between Spain and England regarding the emancipation of slaves.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is reported that the Duke of Saldanha's health is in a very precarious state.

The electric telegraph is now open between Copenhagen and Stockholm—"really an important event" in the estimation of the good people of both capitals.

A marriage is talked of between the Prince Regent of Baden and the Princess Louisa, daughter of the Prince of Prussia. The lady is only sixteen years of age.

The Lyons journals were too sanguine in announcing that the cure of the well-digger, Giraud, who was buried alive, was certain. One of his legs, severely injured by the constant pressure upon he during the miraculous period of twenty days that he was buried in the earth, has mortified, and amputation has been found necessary. Ether was successfully administered before the operation, and Giraud did not suffer, but his body is sacrificed in several other parts, and although hopes are expressed that his life may be saved, he is evidently in a very perilous condition. He has since died.

The English, who have been less numerous than usual during the past winter in Paris, are now arriving in great numbers, and the hotels are so full that it is difficult to procure accommodation. *En revanche*, the Parisians are meditating a descent on London, for the opening of the Crystal Palace is already beginning to create a stir among them. Pleasure trains by railway and steamer are organising though slowly, and numerous parties are being made to be present on the 10th of June.

The Australian Steam Navigation Company is most unfortunate. Last week it was rumoured that the new steamer *Simla* had been disabled off the Portuguese coast. This week information has come to hand that the *Australian* steamer, on entering Table Bay, Cape of Goood Hope, on the 29th of March, ran ashore, injured her rudder, and broke her fan. She had broken the shaft of her engine at sea. A spare fan being on board, the chief cause of detention was the repair of the shaft, which would occupy ten days or a fortnight more. She would probably leave the first week in May. Her gold remains in the bank until she is ready.

Respecting the adventures of the Rev. Dr. Raffles and his friend, the *Patriot* says:—"The Mr. Martin, who was of the party, is Mr. Martin, the stockbroker, not the Rev. Samuel Martin, the minister, who is not returned. It was on entering the Neapolitan, not the Papal, dominions, that Dr. Raffles was put to some inconvenience, which, however, only amounted to the detention of some books and papers belonging to Dr. Halley, that were given in charge to a soldier who accompanied the two doctors to Naples, where the articles in question were soon returned to them. No sort of personal restraint, we are glad to learn, was exercised in the affair, which arose out of a very natural resistance to the exorbitant exactions of the officers at the Neapolitan duano, the most corrupt of their class, perhaps, to be found in the world. The parti-coloured pen-wiper, and the white hat, also, were regarded with ridiculous suspicion."

VOLUNTARY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

On Wednesday evening a public meeting of the friends of voluntary and religious education was held at Bloomsbury Chapel (Rev. W. Brock's), the principal feature of the proceedings being a lecture by Mr. E. Baines, of Leeds, on "The Present State of the Educational Question." The chair was taken by Mr. T. Barnes, M.P.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, combated the opinion, which he said was often expressed, that all the crime and misery of the country arose from ignorance, contending that these were to be attributed to the depravity of human nature and the operation of physical evils. If the physical condition of the mass of the people were improved, education would, he said, come of itself.

Mr. BAINES then proceeded to deliver his lecture. In his opening remarks he said he did not deny that Government action had its advantages, or that some of its advantages were more conspicuous in proportion as authority became more absolute. In the Russian army, discipline being enforced with the knout, the drill was perfect, but that was no reason why the freedom of the people should be laid at the feet of an autocrat. (Hear, hear.) On a superficial view, the results of despotic systems often showed better than the results of free ones; but on a nearer view they found such disadvantages as no outward success could compensate a violation of civil freedom, a tampering with the rights of conscience, an impairing of self-reliance, a general lowering of the force of virtue and the dignity of character. Freedom, as applied to trade, was so highly valued in this country that the smallest infraction of it was jealously guarded against; yet some of those who were most exemplary in this respect would rejoice to see the education of the country laid at the feet of the Government. They had seen the latest Government plan of education in Scotland supported by many liberals in the House of Commons—a plan which would have placed the whole popular education of that country, now free, and four-fifths of it entirely independent, under the absolute control of a Government board sitting at Edinburgh. (Hear, hear.) He was shocked to see the ministers and laity of the Free Church supporting such a plan, because they themselves were to receive grants under it. It was a remarkable fact that, while some classes of Nonconformists had been seduced from their professed principles by the offer of public money, ministers of state and high Churchmen were adopting those principles. A few days since, when the Earl of Winchilsea moved a resolution in the House of Lords to the effect that the religious wants of the labouring classes demanded the interference of Parliament, he was met by the Earl of Aberdeen, Earl Nelson, and the Bishop of Oxford, with these objections—first, that the Voluntary principle was much more powerful than State aid; secondly, that State aid was actually injurious, by checking the operation of the Voluntary principle; thirdly, that the State could not give its aid without restraining the liberty and damaging the influence of the Church; fourthly, that what the State did was done improvidently and wastefully; fifthly, that State grants were a dangerous and paralysing source of revenue. (Cheers.) Mr. Baines then made quotations from the speeches in which he said these objections to State grants were contained. During the last half century, he observed, while the sittings in the churches of the Establishment increased from 4,289,000 to 5,817,000, or 24 per cent., the sittings in the chapels of the various Voluntary denominations increased from 881,000 to 4,894,000, or 455 per cent. (Loud cheers.) If they combined together the sittings provided during that period by private beneficence in and out of the Establishment, they found an increase of 96 per cent.; while the additional sittings provided by State grants amounted only to four per cent. (Hear, hear.) The Census Returns settled the controversy in which he had been engaged for upwards of eleven years, on the statistics of education, against a formidable amount of ignorance, and a still more formidable amount of scornful indignation. (Cheers.) He then referred at some length to his personal share in the controversy with regard to the comparative merits of State education and Voluntary education. He went on to observe, that it was a blessing to have lived in the 19th century, and his wonder was, that any one who had done so, and had watched the course of events, had not acquired an immovable confidence in the power of the people to educate themselves. (Cheers.) He would invite the attention of the meeting to an arithmetical demonstration of the power of the people to prepare any amount of education for themselves. He agreed with Mr. Horace Mann, who was entrusted by the Government with the preparation of the Census Returns with regard to education, that there was at that moment accomodation for a million more children than were now in the schools. Now, what was the number of children at school at three different periods during the present century? In 1818 the number of day scholars was returned to Parliament as 674,000; in 1838 it was returned as 1,276,000 scholars; in 1851 it was returned as 2,144,000 scholars. The first and the last of these returns were at the distance of thirty-three years apart. In the interval, the population increased fifty-four per cent. But the number of day scholars increased 218 per cent., or fourfold the rate of increase of the population. In 1818 the proportion of day scholars to the whole population was 1 in 7½, in 1833 it was 1 in 11¼, in 1851 it was 1 in 8½. (Hear, hear.) It was to be observed, that all the agencies which had existed from the early part of the century for the advancement of popular education existed still. All the great educational societies remained, only in increased numbers and with increased efficiency. The public sentiment of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, had within the present century changed from dull apathy or positive hostility into earnest zeal for education. The literary helps and auxiliaries had extended. In school books, in newspapers, in scientific and literary publications, in libraries, in the rate of postage, in the remuneration of labour, in the facility of intercourse, in the opportunity of saving, in the extension of political and municipal franchise—in these and many other things popular education had found the most popular auxiliaries. Thus, then, they saw two great and conspicuous facts—first, that for a long course of years the progress of education had been more rapid than the increase of population; secondly, that all the agencies for the advancement of education continued with increasing power and efficiency. What was the inevitable conclusion? Was it not that education must and would overtake the wants of the people? (Loud cheers.) Was not this as certain as that two lines in a mathematical figure continually approaching each other must eventually meet? He then referred to the state of education towards the close of the last century, in order to show how very favourable comparatively was the state of things at present. While 1 in 8 of the population now attended a day school, 1 in 7½ attended a Sunday-school. Before the commencement of the present century the number of Sunday-schools was very small; now there was scarcely a congregation in the land without such a school, and the number of voluntary Sunday-school teachers was no less than 318,000, or 1 in 56 of the whole population. Mr. Mann observed, that popular education was the creation of the present century. It was much more difficult to create than to sustain. (Hear, hear.) If they had done the greater work, could they not do the less? (Cheers.) What was the mighty power which put forth this creative energy? Was it the Government that said, "Let there be light, and there was light?" Or did not He, whom they gratefully acknowledged as the source of all good, "choose," as was His wont, "the weak things of the earth to confound the things that were mighty?" In the year 1833, fifty years after Raikes established the first Sunday-school, and twenty years after the formation of the National Society, Parliament made its first grant to aid the building of school premises; in 1839 it made a grant for two normal schools; in 1847 it began making its grants to teachers and their juvenile assistants; and now the Parliamentary vessel came in at the close of a hard-fought action, "pursued the triumph and partook the gale." (Laughter.) He then contrasted at some length the failure of successive Government measures with the steady progress and success of Voluntary efforts; attributing the former to the fact, that no measure of national education could be adopted without injustice and causes of offence to large classes of the community. In support of his view on this subject he quoted the opinion of Mr. Mann, as appended to the Census Returns on education. Though Mr. Mann refrained from pronouncing any verdict, the facts which he presented were entirely in favour of the Voluntary system. That system was supported by the following considerations: equal justice to all parties, perfect freedom in education, respect for the rights of conscience, regard for religious truth, the cultivation of parental duty, the encouragement of Christian benevolence, public contentment, and the self-reliance of the people. What was there on the other side to set against all this? He blushed to say, public money, which they did not need, and Government inspection, which they did not covet—(cheers)—while there were the drawbacks of gross unfairness to many who were teachers, trammels on education, offence to conscience, indifference to religious truth, undue patronage and power in the central Government, a rigid and unwieldy system unfavourable to any useful movement, perpetual contention in and out of Parliament, the relieving of parents from their natural responsibility, the discouragement of philanthropic efforts, and the promotion of an unworthy spirit of dependence. If the Government was to have the control of education, why should it not also have the management of newspapers, and the trade of butchers and bakers? (Laughter.) If there was to be national education, why should there not be national tailoring? (Laughter.) Armed with such proofs as he had presented, the Congregational Board of Education and the Voluntary School Association, to both of which he belonged, would proceed in their course. From the straight path they would not be seduced. (Cheers.) Come fair weather, come foul, they would hold high their banner, on which was inscribed, "Duty and religion, independence and freedom." (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. W. BROCK moved a resolution, thanking Mr. Baines for his lecture, and asserting that education should on no account be taken out of the hands of parents. In doing so he announced that Mr. S. M. Peto, M.P., had undertaken to subscribe £100 a year to the Voluntary School Association. He warmly eulogised the lecture of Mr. Baines, both for its style and its arguments, and contended that the Census Returns had thoroughly borne out all that gentleman's statistics. To show the tendency which there was in the present day towards a system of centralisation, he observed that a gentleman on the platform had just been applied to for a subscription on behalf of a public nursery; adding, that he was much too good a parent and Christian to do any thing of the kind. Woe betide old England when the mothers gave up their children.

Mr. E. MIALL, M.P., seconded the resolution. He said the principles which Mr. Baines had so eloquently expounded were evidently making way in the country. The arrangements of Providence, by ameliorating the physical condition of society, had greatly aided the work; and while they were quarrelling in the House of Commons as to who should educate the people, it was becoming more and more apparent that the people were educating themselves. (Cheers.) They were often asked by their opponents whether it were better to pay public money for schools or for gaols. In reply

to this, he said there was a large class of persons who were always bordering on crime, and schools provided out of public money would not meet their case. (Hear, hear.) The agency which would at once enlighten the people was parental instruction, guided by the intelligence of the times, and aided, where necessary, by Christian philanthropy. Although that agency had not yet overtaken the whole evil, there was evidence before them that it was rapidly accomplishing its work, and if it had not been doing its work so successfully the Government would not have wished to interfere. (Cheers.)

The resolution was supported by Mr L. HEYWORTH, M.P., and agreed to.

The Rev. H. RICHARD moved a resolution, declaring that any system of national education which omitted the religious element from school instruction was fatally defective, and must inevitably tend to produce pernicious results upon the moral character of the community; and that the best way of solving the difficulties which beset the question was for all the friends of education to unite earnestly in promoting the work by their own voluntary exertions. He observed that many reflecting men in America were becoming alarmed at the influence which education without religion was there producing on the character of the people. In the *Biblical Repertory* of January, 1848—an American periodical of high authority—it was stated that there was a visible deterioration in the morals of the young, morals being made to rest, in the schools, not on religion, but on honour. The truth was, that secular education inverted the order of things, and falsely assumed that religion had nothing whatever to do with this life. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the people would be on their guard against the tendency to place everything in the hands of the Government. What was the cause of the present war? It was that the four most civilised powers in Europe could not write an intelligible note. (Cheers, mingled with hisses.) He repeated that statement.

Mr. G. W. ALEXANDER seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE, SYDENHAM.

The programme for the opening ceremonial, which may be considered as nearly settled, will follow very closely the arrangement adopted in opening the Exhition in Hyde-park. The Philharmonic and Sacred Harmonic Societies, assisted by some choral societies from the country, ranged under the baton of Signor Costa, will occupy the galleries immediately surrounding the dais. Her Majesty on her arrival will be received by Mr. Laing, the chairman of the company; Mr. Francis Fuller, the managing director; Sir Joseph Paxton, and the other members of the board. The Queen, having taken the place on the dais, an appropriate address will be delivered by the chairman, and probably a second one to his Royal Highness Prince Albert. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury will inaugurate the people's palace by a prayer, and the intervals between each act will be filled by solemn choral music, care being taken to select such pieces, as by their long-measured cadence, may suit best with the sound-transmitting properties of the building. Such pieces as the Hallelujah Chorus and the 100th Psalm obviously suggest themselves, and the National Anthem will of course follow, with the full choral force, strengthened most probably by the united voices of all the company present. Such an addition would have a stupendous effect, if not marred, as was the case in Hyde Park, by a general impression that the music was to be left exclusively to the regular choristers. The musical arrangements will be completed with a selection of airs and marches by the band. Her Majesty will probably walk round the building, accompanied by the Prince, and attended by her suite, and the Crystal Palace will thus be formally opened—it is to be hoped for a long and prosperous career.

During the past week the nave of the building has been transformed into a gay parterre, covered with garden beds of black mould, in which clumps of brilliant exotics flourish, tall palms and tree shrubs rear their heads, and abundance of foliage shows itself in every direction, while here and there the statues peep modestly through the leaves, as they might be supposed to have done in the classic groves of the olden time.

The grand fountain will be reserved for the second year of the Palace, but great progress is being made with these gigantic works. The water power will be tremendous, as the new towers will contain 1,200 tons of water, and give a jet 200 feet in height, besides allowing the fountains to play twenty minutes longer than they could with the old towers. The water for the large basins, which form so important a portion of the general design, will be obtained from an Artesian well, which is situated about 100 yards from the lower ends of the cascades. It has already been sunk to a depth of nearly 500 feet, and the process of boring is still continued. An engine-house is constructed close by the side of the well, which is fitted with four fine steam-engines. On these great water-works ten engines altogether will be employed!

The police arrangements, which have just been completed, are of the most comprehensive and efficient character. The force constantly in attendance will consist of two superintendents, eleven inspectors, thirty-five sergeants, and three hundred and seventy constables.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The Queen and her court remain in retirement at Osborne. An addition to Her Majesty's subjects is anticipated before long.

Lord Auckland, Bishop of Sodor and Man, is appointed to the vacant see of Bath and Wells.

The young King of Portugal is daily expected on a visit to this country.

Mr. Croall, teacher, Montrose, has received orders to prepare a collection of the plants of Forfarshire, as well as those indigenous to Balmoral, for the especial use of the Queen.

The Marquis of Anglesey is appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Anglesey.

Rear-Admiral Edward Boxer is appointed Admiral Superintendent in the Bosphorus.

The Archdeaconry of St. Asaph, vacant by the preferment of the Venerable C. B. Clough to the Deanery of the Cathedral, has been conferred upon the Rev. R. Wickham, M.A., Vicar of Gresford.

Admiral Hyde Parker died at Ham, on Friday. He served as commander-in-chief of an experimental fleet, and for many years as superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard. He was selected as senior naval lord of the Admiralty under the Duke of Northumberland, and when the coalition ministry succeeded, Vice-Admiral Hyde Parker remained as its senior professional member. By his death, Captain Michael Seymour (1826), now serving as captain of the fleet, becomes Rear-Admiral of the Blue, placing a good-service pension at the bestowal of the First Lord of the Admiralty.

There is no longer a doubt on the subject of the issue of a Brevet, but as yet the extent to which in each grade it may reach is not fixed.

Only fourteen public acts have received the royal assent in the present session, now sitting nearly four months. Fewer acts are expected to be passed in this session than in former years.

It is not generally known (says a correspondent of the *Daily News*) that a person in paying income-tax may deduct from his income two-thirds of the rates and taxes of his business premises, the expense of boarding unpremiumed trade assistants, the expense of materials for wrapping and tying goods, and the amount he paid for his life assurance.

Chevalier Bunsen, the late Prussian ambassador, only awaits the arrival of his successor, Count Bernstorff, to leave this country. No foreign minister, says the *Times*, has more endeared himself to a large circle of English friends than Chevalier Bunsen; and this fact, coupled with the peculiar circumstances attendant on his recall, has caused his departure to be regarded with general regret.

The marriage of the Earl of Durham to Lady Beatrice Hamilton, at St. George's, Hanover-square, has exhausted all the *verbiage* of Jenkins, of the *Morning Post*:—"It has been our lot (says the enthusiastic flunkey) to be present at the performance of the hymeneal ceremony, when the bride and bridegroom represented the very highest families next to royalty, and when royalty itself attended to do honour to the occasion; but in no instance whatever, within our recollection, has the general body of visitors included so large a proportion of the *elite* of society Indeed, so numerous was the attendance of members of the aristocracy, that many noble individuals, who, under ordinary circumstances, would have been accommodated near the altar, had to take their chance in those parts of the sacred building appropriated to free seats," &c., &c., &c., for one long column.

Accidents and Offences.

A man well housed was found dead in his bed in Paris the other day, who, according to the official report of the commissary of police, had died of starvation from avarice. A quantity of gold and silver money was found in his room.

A poor man named Walters, residing in the Southwark-bridge-road, who is a great sleep-walker, in a fit of somnambulism yesterday week, got out of the window of his bed-room, in his night dress, on to the roof of the kitchen. Next morning he was discovered with his head immersed in the water butt. Life was extinct.

A young woman, twenty-two years of age, named Eliza Tippett, a native of Bristol, who has been working at the cotton factory of Mr. Crompton, Prestolee, Lancashire, was on bad terms with some of her relatives and was out of employ. She determined to poison herself, purchased a pot containing a mixture of lard and phosphorus, used for poisoning rats. After she had taken the fatal compound, got a man to write a letter to her friends at Bristol, asking for money to enable her to return home. The poison did not begin to operate until some hours after she had retired to bed, when she became very sick. She died the next day. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of *felo-de-se*. A warrant was made out in regular form for the interment of the body between the hours of nene and twelve at night, in consecrated ground, but without Christian rites.

A striking instance of popular snperstition in rural districts has just come to light. Three weeks ago a working man, named Robert Hindle, residing near Blackburn, committed suicide by leaping into a large sheet of water, called Hoddlesden reservoir. The fact was known, or, at least, strongly suspected by neighbours, who resorted to charms for the purpose of aiding the search. The first charm whose potent agency was sought was gunpowder. A gun was loaded, and fired across the reservoir as near the water as could conveniently be effected. Many eyes were directed across the lodge in various directions, in the expectation that the unfortunate man's body would instantly rise to the surface; but it did not. Another charm was now resorted to—one that had been supposed never to fail. A loaf of new bread was obtained, a quantity of quicksilver was inserted, and the loaf was launched upon the surface of the water. Old women affirmed, and even greybeards believed, that this loaf would swim on until it was over the corpse, and would then become stationary. The loaf, however, only came to a dead stand when the wind lulled, or when washed across the reservoir to the opposite side. With this unexpected (or unnatural as they thought it) result, the people were satisfied. At last the wretched man's body floated to the surface; an inquest was held and a verdict returned to the effect that the deceased had committed suicide.

Miscellaneous News.

Mr. Combe, the Southwark magistrate, has decided that by the Act of Parliament a cabman is not bound to state his fare when a passenger alights; the hirer is supposed to know that as well as himself.

There is no longer a "break of gauge" between Birmingham and Bristol. A narrow-gauge line has been laid down from Gloucester to Bristol, and the broad-gauge will cease to be used for ordinary purposes.

In the year ending Lady-day 1852, £10,174,286 was raised in England for poor-rate, highway-rate, county-rate and county-police, borough-rates, and land-tax; the land-tax produced £1,099,729.

A large number of ticket-of-leave convicts, furnished with supplies of money, have been discharged from Dartmoor within the last few weeks. They receive by Post-office order the money earned in prison by extra work; but in many cases they spend it in drink, commit new offences, and again fall into the hands of justice.

It would seem that the people of Liverpool will not have their beer raised in price by the addition to the malt-tax, but will probably suffer in the quality. The brewers proposed to raise the price of the barrel 4s.; the publicans remonstrated, declaring that they could not increase the retail charge, and advising a lowering of the quality. The brewers consented to an advance of 2s. a barrel only.

The City Corporation are bestirring themselves respecting the new Smithfield cattle market at Copenhagen Fields. The contract for the works has been taken by Mr. Richard Walker, of Bermondsey, who is proceeding energetically with its execution. The building and other erections are to be of the most substantial character, and they are to consist entirely of brick and iron. The bulk of the iron work, amounting to several thousand tons, is to be galvanised by Messrs. Morewood and Rogers, under their patent. It is, as we understand, the intention to open the market before Christmas next.

The official "Statistical Abstract" for the United Kingdom, published about two months ago, stated the declared value of our exports at £93,357,306; but the correct account published on Wednesday states the value at no less than £98,933,781, or nearly £5,600,000 more than was estimated by the Board of Trade in March last! The following are the returns for three years:—

1851.	1852.	1853.
£74,448,722	£78,076,854	£98,933,781

Thus in 1853 the value of the exports was nearly £20,900,000, or upwards of one-fourth more in 1853 than in 1852, and £24,500,000, or nearly one-third more than in 1851.

Mr. W. Henderson, Chairman of the Carpet Manufacturers' Association of the north of England, sends an interesting letter to the *Morning Chronicle*, descriptive of the means adopted in the carpet trade of the North to avoid strikes. An annual meeting is held in some central town, to which the workmen of each manufactory send a delegate, so that any grievance existing in the trade may be known at once to all the masters and all the men. The result of this plan is, that for the last fifteen years the delegates have only once retired with dissatisfaction, and upon that occasion they prayed the masters to reconsider their verdict. The masters immediately held another meeting, and arranged the disputed point to the satisfaction of both parties.

The last new "dodge" adopted by street beggars appears to be that of shamming fits. A gentleman was attracted the other day by a crowd in front of a chemist's shop in Holborn, where a woman had fallen down in apparent insensibility. He compassionately caused her to be taken into the shop; and when she had revived, called a cab, and paid for her conveyance to her alleged home. On her way, she tried to induce the cabman to drink with her, not concealing that she had practised an imposture. The honest Jarvey called a policeman, and despite another fit, got her sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

A committee has been formed in Manchester to co-operate with the London Society in the further investigation of the ruins of Assyria and Babylonia. At an influential meeting held on Saturday, attended by the Mayor, the Bishop of Manchester, Sir John Potter, and others, several subscriptions were received. Mr. Ferguson, who attended in the place of Mr. Layard, said:—"They proposed, in the first place, to raise the necessary funds; and next, to diffuse information among the public by means of drawings and photographs, and reports sent home by those engaged in the exploration, which would be furnished at cost price to subscribers. They had already raised £2,400, and had sent out Mr. Loftus, who had previously been engaged in investigations at Susa and the neighbourhood, whilst accompanying the commission for the boundary; and also Mr. Boutcher, who had shown by the drawings he had already furnished his competence for the task entrusted to him."

Literature.

The Gentile Nations; or, the History and Religion of the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Greeks, and Romans. 2 vols. By GEORGE SMITH, F.A.S. London: Longman & Co.

MR. SMITH is well-known and well-reputed as the author of a work of much research on "The Religion of Ancient Britain," and of the "Sacred Annals,"—of which the volumes before us are the completion, the preceding parts having been devoted to the Patriarchal Age and the Hebrew People. His characteristics as an author are, exceeding patience and carefulness in inquiry, attention to the minutest parts of his subject, and great facility and clearness in the conveyance of his facts and reasonings to his reader. These are important parts of the fitness required for the treatment of early and obscure history; and they have yielded results, in Mr. Smith's case, which biblical readers will always value, and students in general regard with respect. Mr. Smith has, also, great independence; he chooses his own point of view, differing much from other writers on the same subject; and he maintains his own positions with firmness and courage. But to this very independence the faults of his works are due; because it is not based on that deep insight which penetrates all the facts and testimonies and fragmentary parts belonging to his subject, and comprehends their relations and their whole significance; and because it is not sustained by the requisite strength for the mastery of the materials, or for the defence of selected positions and indicated conclusions. It is in no spirit of detraction, nor for the sake of criticism, that we say this; but simply for the reason that, after taking some time to make ourselves acquainted with these volumes, we find them weak at points—(as on the origin of Idolatry, which the author, passing far beyond the Scripture warrant he so much reverences, ascribes to the direct agency of Satan; and on the origin and nature of the widely-diffused Mysteries of the elder mythologies)—while we feel the history generally to be deficient in wholeness of impression, and some of the reasonings esteemed by the author as "indubitable induction" to be altogether inadmissible assumptions.

To the author's useful collection of materials, from the ancient writers and from the antiquarian region which recent discoveries have illuminated for us—and to the untiring diligence with which he has pursued the subject through all the varieties of its modern literature—the highest praise must be awarded. With especial emphasis, too, would we commend his candid and bold adherence to the narratives of the Old Testament, and their collateral historic testimonies. There has been a good deal too much pandering by Christian men to the repugnance or sensitiveness of professedly scientific and really disbelieving writers, as to the reception of the histories of Scripture; and this has been done in the very face of the uniform experience of learned research, that not a witness has ever been recovered from the old world, not a lost city has been disentombed, not an ancient inscription has been brought to intelligible speech, but has confirmed and established the Old Testament records, in the minutest particulars, and even when apparently confused and contradictory. There *may* be an "unscientific and unphilosophical" use of the Scriptures in historical investigation; but it is *not that* use which is founded on the position, that treating them apart from all claim to divine authority, they are more fully and decisively confirmed to us as wholly veracious, accurate in details, and generally reliable, than any known work or document in all the world, available for historic purposes. And we further agree with Mr. Smith, that when we offer expositions of ancient history, those "who make the undoubted verity of God's Word the basis of their highest hopes and dearest interests, should not hesitate to apply its teaching to the great problems presented by all the aspects of the world's religion." It is, again, with emphasis of approval that we name the author's application of this principle to our common study, and particularly to the school-boy study, of the mythology of Greece and Rome; which it is, surely, most "unscientific" to look at only from the historico-antiquarian stand-point, and most injurious to the mind to regard only as fable and story, while disregarding its attempts to express the ever-yearning desires and indestructible necessities of the religious nature of man, and its varied evidence that just as men "did not like to retain God in their knowledge," they "became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." But we are not prepared to assent to all the views of Mr. Smith, arising from his use of these right principles,—protesting, however, as we believe *he* will be glad that we should, that where there is failure *he* has failed and not the principles.

The strictly historical portions of these volumes are necessarily only sketches; but it has been the author's aim to notice every important event, and to elucidate every considerable difficulty. He has done enough to furnish such a view of the older empires and the classic nations, as forms a complete connexion of sacred and profane history, in which the student will find every great fact, and for the most part every desirable reference to the sources of information. Collaterally, much aid is afforded to the examination of the subject of fulfilled prophecy; and to the development of the resources of a comparatively little wrought mine of Bible evidences. But we think Mr. Smith misstates his own position in this historic field, and regards somewhat too complacently his own labours, when he hints that *now* and by *him*, "it has been wrested from the power of infidelity and scepticism, and made subservient to the interest of revealed truth;" and that "*in future* (!) the history and religion of the heathen world may be numbered amongst the most important of the external evidences of the verity of Divine revelation." It is easy, however, to forgive a man who has laboured for years at such a work as these "Sacred Annals," for some over-estimate of the importance of his toils; especially when the labour has been so earnest and right-spirited, and has produced such considerable and useful result.

That part of the work which is least satisfactory to us, and which required the highest order of qualities in its treatment, is confessed by Mr. Smith to have been the most difficult: namely, to use the author's own words, the attempt "to pass beyond the ritualism and ceremonial externalism everywhere prevalent, to penetrate into the nature and genius of the various forms which idolatry assumed, and to form a sound judgment respecting the religious doctrines, practices, and morals of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, of Persia, Greece, and Rome." It is due to the author, who has tried the task manfully and thoughtfully, to say, that very valuable results have been attained; and that trains of thought and inquiry are often indicated, which will suggest to the reader much that lies back of the facts and observations actually presented to him by his guide,—even hidden, perhaps, from his guide's ken. Mr. Smith's good sense and true religiousness ever accompany his learning, and thus he seldom fails to be of real use to us; but the subject yet waits a complete and satisfying treatment. If the profound intuition and subtle intelligence of the author of "The Religions of the World and their relation to Christianity," and of the "Moral and Metaphysical Philosophy of the Ancient World," could be associated with the multifarious learning and research the theme demands, we might then get a work which would long continue to be honoured by the student of the philosophy of religion, and to be delighted in by the thoughtful Christian reader. Already, in the works we have named, there are precious gleams of light thrown on the whole subject, and splendid glows of glory on some of its angles and pillars.

But our final word is for Mr. Smith,—whom we thank for a real and lasting service to literature and religion; and whose volumes we cordially commend to students, especially to those who are or are to be the expounders and defenders of *The Book* and its revelations.

Historical Survey of Speculative Philosophy, from Kant to Hegel; designed as an Introduction to the Opinions of the Recent Schools. By HEINRICH MORITZ CHALYBAEUS, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Kiel. Translated from the Fourth Edition of the German, by ALFRED TULK. London: Longman and Co.

A SECOND translation of the work of Chalybaeus, of which one has already appeared from an Edinburgh press, with an Introduction by Sir William Hamilton,—and the issue of this second, tolerably close upon the heels of its predecessor—are circumstances which argue that there was a felt necessity for such a book in this country, and that the two translators commenced the work of rendering it into English, in ignorance of each other's intention and occupation. Either of these versions would have been a boon to the student of philosophy: between the two, he may indulge himself with a choice; but to many it will be difficult to decide which is, on the whole, the better. Mr. Tulk *ought* to have done best. He has had the advantage of his predecessor's labours, and of the criticism of their result; and both positively and negatively he would find, or might have found, these aids very useful. In particular places he has the advantage of Mr. Edersheim, in being more idiomatic and more lucid. In other places, he is decidedly inferior, and sacrifices the strictness of his author's thinking to an attempt at plainness, or represents his peculiar modes of expression by common-place phrasing, which suppresses all their individuality.

Mr. Tulk appears to have paid great attention, as he himself says, "to the rendering of the metaphysical terms employed by the different writers, so that the unity of thought, pervading their respective systems, may be adequately preserved." And both the general character of his translation, and the price and portableness of the volume, will commend it to the public. We cannot, however, but suspect, that he is himself much less familiar with the modern speculative philosophy than his rival in this work of translation. He sometimes fails to hit the meaning, even when he has Mr. Edersheim for a guide; and he is loose in expression where he ought to be very precise, and stiffly precise where he might well enough use his freedom. We meant to illustrate and justify these remarks by quotation; but the limited space lately at our disposal has made our present columns precious.

Hester and Ellinor: or, The Discipline of Suffering. A Tale. London: John Chapman.

THIS novel is certainly a remarkable one; and if it be, as we suppose, a first production of the author's, indicates that something yet much more remarkable may be looked for, from one who has so much of the feeling and educated ability of the artist, conjoined with such striking original powers. The interest of the story is psychological rather than moral, although the second title may seem to point to the working-out of a moral. The story contains the lives from early youth of two girls of different mental constitution, temperament, and surroundments; and traces the influence of trial and suffering on the formation and development of their characters; until the one conquers and is transfigured by the discipline, and the other rebels and dares, and yet is broken by it. We do poor justice to the theme, the tale, or the moral, by this description: but we shall show our sense of a worth and significance in the work, when we say that we mean to give it another honest reading. It always is either charming or powerful, and sometimes is very powerful. We should fancy its characters and incidents are but forms for tendencies, temptations, trials, and sufferings, through which the author has fought her way to some interpretation of her lot and life. But we doubt the completeness of her experience, and the sufficiency of her solution of the question she grapples with. Sometimes the tendency of her story seems to us, with a Christian faith, more than doubtful; but the last impression is a healthy one—"that woman's strength is the quiet strength of independent self-development, and unselfish devotion to others." As a page from the mystic book of woman's heart,—a revealing of the secret struggles and conflicts, which make up *her* life, too, if she be more than a common-place domestic drudge or a giddy butterfly,—a vision of suffering as it inwardly works on the spirit, rather than as it leaves traces in the life,—this tale has great subtlety, originality, and strength; and is not altogether unworthy of mention with "The Scarlet Letter" of Hawthorne, as a piece of psychological fiction.

Marcus Warland; or, The Long Moss Spring. A Tale of the South. By CAROLINE LEE HENTZ. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

THIS story contains livelily told incident, and well-drawn character. Some of its pictures of manners and life in the Southern States of America are enjoyable. But we *do* think what the author desires that we should *not* think, namely, that "too fair a colouring is thrown over Southern life, and that traits are palliated which in themselves are harsh and repulsive." There is love, and mystery, and suffering, and a *dénouement*, in the book: but nothing of mark enough for quotation.

The Confessor: A Jesuit Tale of the Times. By the Author of "Michael Cassidy." With Preface by Rev. C. B. TAYLER. London: Clarke, Beeton and Co.

THIS book belongs to the cheap series of family reading entitled "The Run and Read Library:" its title tells its purpose, as an illustration of the genius and character of Papal tyranny. There is the polemic tone, but not a violent one, throughout the work. There are some well-managed situations, and some effective strokes of character drawing; but it is not very interesting or powerful. Its spirit is right; and its whole contents unexceptionable.

The Intelligence of the Animal Creation. By the Rev. WILLIAM EDWARDS. Second Edition. London: William Freeman, 69, Fleet-street.

WITHIN the compass of a lecture, there is here presented a body of facts and observations on the faculties of animals, and the characteristic difference between their intelligence and man's, which is as deeply interesting in itself as it is singularly complete for the purposes of the author's argument. The subject is a very attractive one, and it is attractively treated. It is not without its difficulties, and these Mr. Edwards knows and handles well. The lessons of humanity to the animal creation, and of reverent admiration towards their Creator, whose wisdom and beneficence their constitution exhibits, are very impressively, but not *preachingly*, taught by this lecture: and we may

safely commend it to universal perusal, with the certainty that it will gratify and instruct the reader.

Welsh Sketches. Third Series, Second Edition. By the Author of "Proposals for Christian Union." London: James Darling.

THIS third little volume on Welsh history, civil and ecclesiastical, completes the series. We learn with surprise that the author is a "Saxon stranger." These essays ought to be familiarly known in Wales; and in England ought to make the Welsh people and their history more familiarly known. The author's sketches cover a large breadth, commencing long before Christianity, and closing with the 15th century. They are full of research and knowledge, and extremely interesting.

Library of Biblical Literature. Nos. III., IV., V. The Dead Sea and its Explorers.—The Plagues of Egypt. —The Captivity, and its Mementoes. London: William Freeman, 69, Fleet-street.

WE have not the slightest knowledge of the authorship of these tracts, or of the editorship of the series in which they appear; so that we can unreservedly express our opinion of them,—which is, that nothing at all equal to them in fitness to direct and assist popular biblical studies, in fulness, conciseness, and clearness of information, and in meritoriousness of literary execution, has ever before appeared. We know nothing so useful to the Sunday-school teacher, or likely to be so interesting to thoughtful young people, or so educational in its power over them. We wish it a place on the table of every reading-room for working men,—or better still, as its price allows it, on the table of every working man. Wherever there is not a considerable and well selected library in the house, these tracts will convey more knowledge than one in a thousand could otherwise obtain, even with the toil of inquiry and search.—"The Dead Sea" is a graphic and most interesting summary of all the researches made in that remarkable region, down to the latest discoveries and speculations. "The Plagues of Egypt" is in the form of a personal narrative by Moses; and has been chosen as admitting "the greatest condensation of fact and implication, in union with the greatest amount of interest." It is powerfully and dramatically written, and thoroughly holds the reader till its close. If exception should be taken to the *form*, it must be allowed that scarcely could more knowledge be brought to the subject, or more art to its treatment. "The Captivity" worthily sustains the series: and is a judicious, instructive, and well-written chapter of history.

A Lamp to the Path: or, the Bible in the Heart, the Home, and the Market-place. By the Rev. W. K. TWEEDIE, D.D. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

THIS is a good title; and it introduces a good book. Its practical aim, its manly spirit, its true earnestness, commend it to us more than any work we have seen from Dr. Tweedie's pen. We are not entirely at one with all the author's views and positions, nor even with his practical suggestions in detail; but it is impossible not to feel the heartiness, the wisdom, the finely mingled seriousness and cheerfulness, that breathe in every page. The key to the book is here:—

"It has sometimes occurred to us to inquire whether the ministers of religion be sufficiently explicit, minute, and detailed in their lessons on the Sabbath. Over thousands of congregations each recurring week, there are diffused from the pulpit, doctrines the most ennobling, allied, in many cases, to lessons the most cogent and pure. Line upon line is employed, if, by any means, some may be saved, and the truth of God carried, by the Spirit's power, through the heart and the conscience to the hand and the life. Withal, however, is there not reason to believe that there is still room for more precise and definite instructions than are sometimes conveyed? It is obviously one thing for a soul passively to acquiesce in a doctrine, and another thing to apply the truth to practice; to give it the control of the life, that man may be like-minded with God, and "pure as He is pure." There have been men in all ages who held a faultless creed, yet led a godless life; who would tithe their mint, their anise, and cummin, and yet forget the weightier matters of the law. There are not a few who took rank in the Christian Church, who could not be trusted in the market-place. Some who had fallen into the hands of the public prosecutor, have, with all the indignation of injured innocence, resented it as an offence, when those who watch for the spiritual good of men ventured to prevent them from polluting the holy place. In *one* point of view, the world thus seems to be more careful or more high-toned than the church; and that irresistibly suggests the question, *can* a remedy be found for this sore evil?"

Dr. Tweedie does not believe in any specifics: the bringing of the Gospel alongside all human relations, conditions, and duties, and the doing so more fully and practically than ever, is his only panacea. So he proceeds to show, Christianity in the heart; in the home; in the workshop; in the market-place; in the professions of the physician, the lawyer, and the divine; in our ordinary social intercourse and as the crown and glory of man's existence upon earth. The thinking-out of these views is sound and suggestive; their illustration, both imaginative and historical, is extremely excellent; and the whole impression of the book is a telling and valuable one. It concerns us all; but should especially be commended to men of business and artizans.

The Life and Labours of St. Augustine. A Historical Sketch. By PHILIP SCHAFF, D.D. London: S. Bagster and Sons.

THERE is no name amongst the Fathers of the Church so worthy of reverence, or so widely reverenced, as St. Augustine. Not only for his life-story, and his labours for Christ and the Church in his own day; but also for the rich and unchanging value of his writings, and for their past and present influence on those, alike of the Roman and Reformed Churches, amongst whom the spiritual life has chiefly attained a full and free development; Augustine's biography and works ask the attention, not of theologians only, but of all Christians who would thoughtfully develop the inner life. Dr. Schaff here offers to them such a sketch of this chief of the Fathers as has long been wanting. He has derived it "conscientiously from the original sources." The touching, heart-stirring, purifying "Confessions" of Augustine have been copiously used; and his other writings made to furnish lights for the study of his biography. It is such a book as Neander might have written—such as he would have deeply delighted his soul in. The research, critical perception, sound judgment, and piety of the author are eminently apparent. Dr. Schaff has earned other fame, and this work is worthy of it; and has our warmest and most emphatic commendations.

Gold and the Gospel. The Ulster Prize Essays on the Scriptural Duty of Giving in Proportion to Means and Income. London: J. Nisbet and Co.

THIS is a big book: yet the subject would not seem to require much elucidation. We are sorry to say the Essays are, without exception, as diffuse and vague as the given theme—"The *Scriptural Duty* of Giving in proportion to *Means* and *Income*." We don't think the evil—and it is undoubtedly a tremendous one, and injurious deeply and almost universally—against which these essays are directed, can be touched by any such means. We know many will think it enough to put the volume into the hands of a man known to value Gold more than the Gospel, or of a "professing Christian" who is deficient in liberality to "the cause" of religion and philanthropy; and will anticipate results from doing so. All the better order of minds can dispense with the argument, and will admit the duty to be self-evident: all the worse sort will dodge the argument and bar out the coming pleas; or, at the utmost, compromise the matter.

We admit the *evil*, as we have said—luxurious, selfish, worldly, mammon-loving, is this age of ours, in very truth. We desiderate the *remedy*—but it is not to be found in long, prosy essays on the "Jewish law of Tithe," and in "Forms of Dedication," and model Cash Accounts for Christian purposes.

Gleanings.

The Government is to ask for a vote of £1,000 on account of the statue of Charles I. at Charing-cross!

Amongst the May meetings may now be reckoned that of the Anti-Tobacco Society, which has just held a meeting.

A lump of pure gold, weighing twenty-seven pounds, has been found at California by a poor Italian, who, the day before, begged a dollar to purchase a breakfast.

The statue of Queen Anne at Queen-square, Westminster, which is without a nose, hand, or foot, is at length to be restored and renovated.

The Americans are likely to cross the Atlantic in such force this summer that apprehension is entertained that they contemplate the "annexation" of Europe to the great Republic.

Mr. Peto, M.P., is about to present a most elaborate and beautifully designed stained glass window to the King of Denmark, intended for the altar window of the chapel royal at Fredericksburg.

A wedding was solemnised, at Kirkby Overblow, Yorkshire, on Sunday week, in which the bride and bridegroom, the two bridesmaids, the bridegroom's man, and even the "Jarvey," were all deaf and dumb. The ceremony was gone through by means of slates.

The other day the unfortunate Chancellor of the Exchequer, who disposes of the nation's millions, couldn't pay his railway fare at Worcester! The clerk recognised him, and offered to let him pass on condition that the amount was forwarded in postage stamps. The deficiency was made good with great punctuality.

In the Church-rate debate Mr. Biggs, M.P., said, "that on one occasion he was dining at the house of a friend with the Chief Magistrate of the borough, when the constable brought his worship twelve warrants to sign for non-payment of Church-rates, among which was one against the host; and the Chief Magistrate was actually obliged to sign a warrant for seizing the goods and chattels of the gentleman of whose hospitality he was partaking." (Much laughter.)

The *Birmingham Mercury* notices a strange coincidence connected with a marriage just celebrated at Attleborough church. "The father of the bride was the first that was buried in Attleborough churchyard, her brother was the first that was christened in the church, the banns were the first published, and the marriage ceremony the first solemnised in the church."

An eminent minister at Norwich made a sudden pause in his sermon; the congregation were panic struck. Having rivetted their attention, he addressed himself by name to a gentleman in the gallery—"Has that poor man who stands at the back of your pew a gold ring on his finger?" The gentleman turned round, and replied, "I believe not, sir." "O, then, I suppose that is the reason he mus'n't have a seat." The gentleman had three gold rings on his hand, and his pew was nearly empty.

The keel of the gigantic steamer for the Eastern Steam Navigation Company is now being laid in the yard of Messrs. Scott Russell and Co., Mill-wall. Her proportions are to be nearly twice the length of the great *Himalaya*, and more than three times her tonnage. She is to be completed in two years, and is expected to do the distance to Australia in little over thirty days, and, if necessary, to carry sufficient fuel for the voyage out and home. She is to be fitted with paddle-wheels and screw-propelling power.

Our trans-Atlantic brethren know how to do the work of petitioning. 15,000 believers in spiritual manifestations recently petitioned the United States Senate praying for an investigation. One member expressed some apprehension at having to enter into foreign relations with these spirits; another suggested that the petitions be referred to the committee on the Post-offices and the Post-roads, because there may be a possibility of establishing a spiritual telegraph between the material and the spiritual world. (Laughter.) The petition was ordered to lie on the table.

An advertisement in the *Times* contains a tempting offer to needy ingenuity. The proprietors of a leading metropolitan journal offer to pay any person who shall first succeed in inventing or discovering the means of using a cheap substitute for the cotton and linen materials now used by papermakersthe sum of £1,000. We trust the appeal may be successful. There is a great scarcity of paper at the present time. Stationers are at their wits' end to supply orders, and newspaper proprietors in a state of apprehension at the enhanced value of an article which has risen nearly 25 per cent.

In the *Memoirs* of Dr. Chalmers, there is a curious reminiscence of Queen Victoria and her juvenile likings. The Dr., writing from Derby, June 24, 1833, to his little daughter Margaret, told her of a visit he had made to Chatsworth, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire. Describing the wonders of the gardens, he said:—"Near this (the waterworks and fountain), is an artificial tree, which, on the opening of a stopcock, sends out from the ends of the branches thin jets of water, and which amused the little Princess Victoria so much, that when asked, on her visiting Chatsworth some months ago, which of all the things she liked best, she said it was the squirting tree."

The *Athenæum* records a characteristic anecdote of Martin, the painter:—When designing his picture of "The Deluge," he found it necessary to introduce some rocks; and how to draw them he knew not;—his heaps would not lie quite as they should do. A sudden thought of true genius struck him: he rang the bell and ordered the servant to send for a waggon-load of large coal. In half-an-hour it came, and, by his directions, was shot down pell mell on the floor of his studio. He then, with a pickaxe, shattered some of the largest masses, and the deluge proceeded.

The *Inverness Advertiser* has started a perplexing difficulty as regards "cause" and "effect."—A paragraph appeared lately in the *Ladies' Journal*, stating, as a remarkable fact, that all the shops in Fort Augustus were kept by young, unmarried females, all fresh, fair, and twenty. We beg to offer, as a still more remarkable fact—and probably the cause, not the effect, of the prior fact—that not only is this so, but that the provost, the minister, the schoolmaster, the doctor, the inspector, the lock-keeper, the exciseman, the baker, the flesher, the shoemaker, the tailor, the carpenter, the piper, and the fiddler of this very remarkable village are, all of them, singular to say, living in single blessedness.

The *Cheltenham Examiner* records a rather "extraordinary if true" story of a five minutes courtship between a thriving and busy merchant and a lady for whom, in conjunction with a deceased friend, he was trustee. The lady called at his counting house and said that her business was to consult him on the propriety or otherwise of her accepting an offer of marriage which she had received. Now, for the first time, occurred to the Bristol merchant the idea of this holy estate in his own case. "Marriage," said he, listlessly turning over some West Indian correspondence, "well, I suppose everybody ought to marry, though such a thing never occurred to me before. Have you given this gentleman an affirmative answer?" "No." "Are your feelings particularly engaged in the matter?" "Not particularly." "Well, then Madam," said he, turning round on his office-stool, "if that be the case, and if you could dispense with courtship, for which I have no time, and think you could be comfortable with me, I am your humble servant to command." There were people who thought that the lady had a purpose in going there, but, if so, she prudently disguised it. She said she would consider the matter; the Bristol merchant saw her out with the same coolness as if she was merely one of his correspondents, and when she was gone five minutes, was once more immersed in his letters and ledgers. A day or two after, he had a communication from the lady, accepting his offer, very considerately excusing him from an elaborate courtship, and leaving him to name "the most convenient day." They were married.

BIRTHS.

May 21st, at Wilton-villa, Holloway, the wife of J. J. Mayo, Esq., of Marlborough-house, of a daughter.

May 22nd, at No. 4, Carlton-terrace, the Duchess of Argyll, of a daughter.

May 24th, at Albion Temperance Hotel, St. James's-square, Edinburgh, Mrs. Philp, of a daughter.

May 25th, the wife of Mr. J. Mark Wilks, of Ashton-under-Lyne, of a son.

May 27th, at Grange-road, Mrs. John Eastly, of a daughter.

May 30th, Mrs. Wm. Blackwell, Cheapside, Leicester, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

May 16th, at York-street Chapel, Walworth, by the Rev. G. Clayton, Mr. John Sykes, of Essex-street, Strand, to Emily Head, daughter of Samuel Potter, Esq., of Princes-place, Kennington.

May 18th, at Buckland Chapel, Portsea, by Rev. A. Jones, Mr. Younie, of London, to Miss Pellson, of Tipnor, Portsmouth.

May 18th, at Bond-street Chapel, Leicester, by the Rev. W. Ayre, of Morpeth, Mr. John Bennett to Sarah Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Swain, both of that town.

May 23rd, at Lavendon, near Olney, Mr. John Perry, of Lavendon Mills, to Ellen, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Cobb, of Olney.

May 23rd, George Frederick Darcy, Earl of Durham, to Lady Beatrice Hamilton, second daughter of the Marquess and Marchioness of Abercorn.

May 24th, at Carr's-lane Chapel, Birmingham, by the Rev. J. A. James, William Palmer Rayner, eldest son of W. Rayner, Esq., of the Crescent, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of John Kerr, Esq., of the Hagley-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

May 24th, at Portland Chapel, St. John's-wood, by the Rev. George Wilkins, William Bayley, of Southampton, to Hannah Kitchener, youngest daughter of the late James Bowes Kitchener.

May 29th, at the Baptist Chapel, Chester-street, Wrexham, by the Rev. T. Brooks, Mr. Samuel Roberts, of Brymbo, to Mrs. Margaret Jones, of Bwlch Gwyn.

May 30th, at Albion Chapel, Moorgate, by the Rev. Thomas Binney, the Rev. John Macfarlane, B.A., minister of the Chapel, to Jane, only child of Mr. George Hall, 69, Bishopsgate Without.

DEATHS.

May 15th, at his residence, 2, Albert-terrace, Stoke Newington, in his 80th year, Benjamin Jennings, Esq., one of the Senior Paymasters of the Royal Navy.

May 16th, on board the *Ripon*, on the passage home from Alexandria, in his 30th year, the Rev. William George Tupper, M.A., Trinity College, Oxford, warden and chaplain of the House of Charity, Soho, youngest son of the late Martin Tupper, Esq., of New Burlington-street.

May 18th, Jane Henderson, the lady of Mr. W. T. Henderson, manager of the London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury.

May 20th, at York, Sir John Stirling, Knight, aged 58.

May 20th, at her residence, in Theberton-square, Islington, Margaret, relict of the late Mr. Henry Lailand, aged 79 years.

May 21st, Eliza, the wife of Rev. David Loxton, of Sheffield, aged 32.

May 22nd, at No. 13, Gayfield-square, Edinburgh, Miss Elizabeth Dick, daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Robert Dick, minister of the Trinity College Church, Edinburgh, aged 91.

May 24th, at Oxford, aged 71 years, Mr. William Cousins, coach-builder, and Senior Deacon of the Independent Church in that city.

May 24th, at New Burlington-street, George Goldsmith, Esq., late of Southampton, in his 53rd year.

May 24th, Catherine, youngest daughter of the Rev. Dr. Bruce, Somerville Bank, Newmilns, Ayrshire.

May 25th, at Strand, Bideford, in her 82nd year, Mary Arthur, the mother of the Rev. Benjamin Arthur, Baptist minister.

May 25th, Jane Elizabeth Morris, daughter of the late Rev. John Morris, Baptist minister at Shipton-on-Stour, aged 3 years and 10 months.

May 25th, at Stroud, in the 54th year of her age, Ann, the wife of Benjamin Bucknall,

May 27th, at Sneinton, near Nottingham, Rebecca, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Samuel Thurman, of Nottingham.

May 27th, in the 35th year of her age, Anne, the beloved wife of Mr. Thomas Viccars, De Montford-square, Leicester.

May 28th, after a long illness, Martha, the beloved wife of Mr. Joseph Hartland, of Gibson-square, Islington, aged 67.

May 29th, after a long and painful illness, and greatly regretted by his friends, Mr. Samuel Thompson, of Bellitha-villas, Islington, and Gresham-street, City, in the 47th year of his age.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday evening.

During the past week there has been a considerable rise in Consols, chiefly arising from the continued reports of the firmer attitude of Austria and Prussia, the slackened demand for gold, and the favourable Australian advices. On Friday Consols were done at 90, and on Saturday at 90⅝ for money and account, leaving off at 91 to ½. On Monday the advance continued till 91⅝ was reached, after which there was a decline to 91 and a subsequent improvement. The excitement of yesterday was followed by a re-action to-day, prices having declined to 90½. Exchequer Bills are to be renewed at an interest of 2½ per diem. Some dissatisfaction was expressed at an increase of only one farthing, because with this addition Exchequer Bills will only produce £2 8s. 5d. per cent. annually, or 1s. more than Consols would pay at 89. The future value of these bills has been freely discussed, and comparison drawn between the present period and thirteen years ago, when they bore the same rate and commanded 15s. premium. The transactions in reduced to-day have been at 89⅞ and 89⅝. The Three and a Quarter per Cents. from 90⅜ to 90½. India Stock is 1 per cent. lower, having been operated in at 233 236, and Indian Bonds have declined to 1s. dis. to 2s. pm. Exchequer Bonds have been supported at ¼ prem. Exchequer Bills, par to 3d. prem. The advertised bills have dropped again to-day to as much as 4s. discount, and this in the face of their being redeemable at par in a few days. Money is very scarce, and is not obtainable at Lombard-street under 6 per cent.

The Bank returns for the past week show a decrease of bullion to the extent of £751,397; this week's return is likely to be of more favourable. Only £24,000 of the precious metals have been exported against an importation of £610,000.

Foreign securities have been well maintained, but are now somewhat weaker, and operations are very restricted.

Railways have been firm, and a demand has existed, through the upward movement in Consols. But the improvement has been checked. To-day, there has been a decline of £1 and upwards in the principal heavy stocks. North Westerns, which yesterday stood at 99½, have gone down to 97¾. South Easterns are 35s. lower than yesterday. Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Westerns, Caledonians, South Westerns and Midland, are all £1 lower. Eastern Counties, 5s. French Shares are all heavier. Paris and Lyons, 26⅜ to 27⅜. Northern of France, 32¼. Great Central of France, 9⅛. Great Western of Canada, 30s. dis.

Australian Bank Shares keep steady. London Dock Stock, £1 lower. Australian Agricultural Company, £1 lower. Peninsular and Oriental Shares fell £2. Peel River, par to ¼ premium. General Screw Steam, 12¼.

The advices respecting the trade of the manufacturing towns during the past week are in most of their leading points satisfactory. At Manchester, although the tendency to depression continues, the market has been partially supported by the demand for India. Birmingham shows no abatement of activity, and the deficiency in the supply of ore to meet the wants of the manufacturers is alleged to be leading to a serious deterioration in the qualities of pig-iron. Of copper the stocks are low, and a further rise in price is apprehended, but for tin the quotations are £10 per ton below those of a fortnight or three weeks ago. The animation of general business is greatly promoted by large orders for railway work, consequent upon the steady increase of traffic on all the principal lines. The Nottingham accounts mention disappointment as regards the extent of the home trade, but its effects have been counteracted by American purchases. The journeymen carpenters of the town, in their insane opposition to machinery, are imitating the recent attempt of the Preston weavers to beat the masters in detail, but the latter, certain of the support not only of their own class, but of the entire intelligence of the country, have apparently resolved upon an uncompromising resistance. In the woollen districts perfect confidence prevails, and the transactions have been firm and numerous.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week show an increase. They have comprised altogether 12 vessels—five to Port Phillip, with an aggregate burden of 2,105 tons; two to Sydney, with an aggregate burden of 1,434 tons; two to Hobart Town, with an aggregate burden of 1,123 tons; one to Adelaide, of 615 tons; one to New Zealand, of 512 tons; and one to Launceston of 256 tons. Their total capacity was consequently 6,045 tons. The rates of freight exhibit a further decline.

The business of the port of London during the past week has given evidence from its continued activity that the general import trade is but little affected by the war. The number of vessels reported inward was 266, and the total quantity of grain brought was 69,084 quarters, including 46,528 quarters of wheat, in addition to 12,697 barrels and 2,763 sacks of flour. Of sugar 4,637 hhds., 2,419 casks, 7,921 cases, 38,915 bags, and 21,703 loaves. Of tea 23,134 packages; and of tallow, 791 casks. The number of vessels cleared outward was 126, being 24 more than in the previous week. Of these, 40 were in ballast, and 12 as above stated, for the Australian colonies.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.	Saturday.	Monday.	Tuesday.
3 per Ct. Consols	89½ ⅝	89⅝ ½	90⅛ ⅜	90⅛ ⅜	91½	90⅛ ½
Consols for Account.....	89½ 9	89½ ⅝	89⅞ ⅜	90⅛ ⅜	91	90⅛ ⅜
3 per Cent. Red	87⅞ ⅜	88 ½	89⅛ ⅜	89½ ⅝	90½	89⅝ ⅝
New 3½ per Cent.						
Annuities	89⅜ ½	89 ½	89½ ⅝	90½ ⅝	91½	90⅝ ⅝
India Stock	—	—	—	236	—	233-6
Bank Stock....	203 5	204 6	—	204 5	206	204-6
Exchequer Bills	2 pm.	1 pm.	1 pm.	4 pm.	3	2 pm.
India Bonds....	—	4 pm.	4 pm.	4	4	3 pm.
Long Annuities	4 9-16	4⅝	4⅝	4⅝	—	4 9-16

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 20th day of May, 1854.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes issued . .	25,779,095	Government Debt .	11,015,100
		Other Securities . .	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	11,779,095
		Silver Bullion . .	—
	£25,779,095		£25,779,095

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital.	14,553,000	Government Securities — (including Dead Weight Annuity)	10,406,309
Rest	3,225,731	Other Securities . .	15,425,281
Public Deposits . .	2,671,561	Notes	5,160,030
Other Deposits . .	10,146,428	Gold and Silver Coin	734,874
Seven Day and other Bills	1,869,784		
	£31,666,494		£31,666,494

Amount of bullion in bank last week £12,608,079
Do. do. this week 12,589,366
Decrease 18,713

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 26th day of May, 1854.

Friday, May 26th, 1854.

BANKRUPTS.

Ackland, W., Salisbury-street, Lisson-grove, and High-street Portland-town, and Goodwin, F. M., High-street, Portland town, linendrapers, June 2, July 12: solicitor, Mr. Jones, Size-lane.

Bates, J., West Bromwich, Staffordshire, builder, June 8, and 29; solicitors, Messrs. Motteram and Knight, Birmingham.

Billingham, J., and Billingham, J., Cradley Heath, Staffordshire, chain makers, June 6, and 20: solicitors, Messrs. Robinson and Fletcher, Dudley; and Motteram and Knight, Birmingham.

Brant, J. C., Shoreditch, oilman, June 8, July 6: solicitor, Mr. Young, Bank-buildings.

Dungie, J., Sheffield, tailor, June 16, July 1: solicitors, Messrs. Hoole and Yeomans, Sheffield.

Cave, R., Bristol, Manchester warehouseman, June 7, July 4: solicitors, Messrs. Bevan and Girling, Bristol.

Fox, S. C., Liverpool, wine merchant, June 6, and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Minshull and Horner, Liverpool.

Hoggins, J., and Hoggins R., Sheffield, builders, June 16, July 1: solicitors, Messrs. Brahbee and Son, Sheffield.

Isaacs, S., Portsea, Hampshire, hatter, June 14, July 4: solicitor, Mr. Overbury, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.

Latham, R., jun., Bristol, leather dealer, June 7, July 4: solicitor, Mr. Smith, Bristol.

Leighton, C., Liverpool, grocer, June 8, and 20: solicitor, Mr. Williams, Liverpool.

Long, W., Lamb's Conduit-street, baker, June 9, July 8: solicitors, Messrs. Ashurst and Son, Old Jewry.

Nuttall, J., Yates, J., and Nuttall, C., Rawtenstall, Lancashire, cotton manufacturers, June 17, July 1: solicitors, Messrs. Cobbett and Wheeler, Manchester.

Philip, R. K., and Appleford, R. P., Fleet-street, City, booksellers, June 8, July 13: solicitor, Mr. Burrell, Laurence Pountney-lane.

Stringer, R., Harefield, Middlesex, draper, June 8, July 13 solicitors, Messrs. Chauntler, Gray's-inn, and Gardiner, Uxbridge.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND.

Rotherford, R., St. John's, Newfoundland, and Manchester, merchant, second div. of 4d., any Tuesday, at Mr. Pott's, Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Macalaster, W. L., Paisley, yarn merchant, June 2.

Woolfield, S., Glasgow, jeweller, June 17.

Taylor, W., Rodger, T., and Rodger, G., Paisley, dyers, June 5.

Alexander, J., Glasgow, tea merchant, June 5.

Tuesday, May 30th, 1854.

BANKRUPTS.

Smith, J. N., Jewry-street, Aldgate, provision merchant, June 12, July 26; solicitors, Messrs. Ashurst and Son, Old Jewry.

Wearn, W. H., Portsea, grocer, June 9, July 14; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, Size-lane, Bucklersbury; and Mr. Stigant, Portsea.

Clanidge, H., Souldern, Oxfordshire, tea dealer, June 9, July 14; solicitors, Messrs. Parker, Rooke, and Co., Bedford-row.

Bullock, J. L., Battersea, manufacturing chemist, June 13, July 13; solicitor, Mr. Moss, Moorgate-street.

Merrington, G. W., Edgeware-road, draper, June 14, July 8: solicitors, Messrs. Reed, Langford, and Marsden, Friday-street, Cheapside; and Messrs. Sale, Worthington, and Shipman Manchester.

Lapraik, H., Harrison-street, Gray's-inn-road, draper, June 6, July 11; solicitor, Mr. Cattlin, Ely-place, Holborn.

Lakin, J., Crawford-street, St. Marylebone, linendraper, June 13, July 11; solicitor, Mr. Brewer, Philpot-lane.

Gadd, J. L., Whitechapel-road, draper, June 13, July 18; solicitors, Messrs. Reed, Langford, and Marsden, Friday-street, Cheapside.

Adkins, T., Bedworth, Warwickshire, grocer, June 16, July 1; solicitors, Mr. Kirlup, Coventry, and Messrs. Motteram and Knight, Birmingham.

Halsworth, D., Liverpool, draper, June 12, July 8; solicitors, Messrs. Gregory, Liverpool.

Hadfield, J., Dunkinfield, Cheshire, grocer, June 12, July 10; solicitor, Mr. Sutton, Manchester.

Grisbell, R., and R. Luscombe, Tavistock, wholesale grocers, June 13, July 6; solicitors, Messrs. Little and Woolcombe, Devonport; and Mr. Stodges, Exeter.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Warrax, R., Montrose, draper, June 7.

Simpson, A., Gamrie, Banffshire, merchant, June 15.

Jamieson, A., Aberdeen, tea merchant, June 9.

Curtis, E., Edinburgh, musical instrument maker, June 9.

Rowland, C. J., Dundee, manufacturer, June 13.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

C. Seagrim, Winchester, solicitor, first div. of 2s. 6d., any Tuesday, at Mr. Nicholson's, Basinghall-street.—T. Crossley, Noble-street, silk warehouseman, first div. of 1s., any Tuesday at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.—H. Wattleson, Stockport, tailor, first div. of 8s. 6d., any Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.—H. Johnson, York-buildings, Adelphi, coal merchant, first div. of 5½d., any Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.—W. Hinds, Bedford, plumber, first div. of 6s., any Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.—H. Martin, Aldgate, High-street, woollendraper, first div. of 10s., any Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.—A. Fisher, Mincing-lane, colonial broker, first div. of 7d., any Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall chambers, Basinghall-street.—J. and J. F. King, Well's-row, Islington, builders, third div. of 8½d., and final div. of 5s. on the separate estate of J. King, any Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.—L. S. Butler, Ludgate-hill, stationer, second div. of 4½d., any Tuesday, at Mr. Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.—J. and T. Metcalfe, Cambridge, upholsterers, fourth dividend of 1¼d., on Thursday next and three following Thursdays, at Mr. Graham's, Coleman-street.—R. Northover, Skinner-street, Bishopsgate-street, and Cheapside, lint manufacturer, fourth dividend of 1s. 5d., on Thursday next and three following Thursdays, at Mr. Graham's, Coleman-street.—J. T. Davison, Chatham, grocer, first dividend of 6d., on Thursday next and three following Thursdays, at Mr. Graham's, Coleman-street—A. Palmer, Great Hadham, grocer, first dividend of 10d., on Thursday next and three following Thursdays, at Mr. Graham's, Coleman-street—J. and J. Boyd, Wellington-chambers, Southwark, hop merchants, third dividend of 4½d., on Thursday next and three following Thursdays, at Mr. Graham's, Coleman-street—G. T. Brown, Glocester-terrace, New-road, Whitechapel-road, draper, first dividend of 4½d., on Thursday next and three following Thursdays, at Mr. Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—J. Rayner, Nottingham, laceman, first dividend of 1s. 6d., on Thursday next and the three following Thursdays, at Mr. Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—R. J. Williams, Birmingham, linendraper, first dividend of 1s. 0¾d., any Thursday, at Mr. Christie's, Birmingham—W. Chisworth, Manchester, merchant, first dividend of 1s., on June 13, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr. Pott's, Manchester.

Markets.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, May 29.

To-day's market was very moderately supplied with each kind of foreign stock, the quality of which was by no means good. From our own grazing districts, as well as from Scotland, the arrivals of Beasts were limited, and their general weight exhibited a falling off. Although the attendance of buyers was not to say numerous, the demand for all breeds of Beasts was very brisk, at an advance in the prices obtained on Monday last of fully 2d. per 8lbs. Prime Scots and some good short-horns sold at 5s. per 8lbs. In some instances 5s. 2d., and even 5s. 4d. per 8lbs. was paid for the primest qualities, and a clearance was effected. This was one of the most active markets for Beef we almost ever recollect. The arrivals from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire amounted to 1,980 Scots and Short-horns; from other parts of England, 520 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 300 horned and polled Scots. With Sheep we were fairly supplied, but their general weight was not heavy. Nearly all breeds commanded a steady trade, at prices fully equal to those obtained on this day se'nnight, the best old Downs, out of the wool, readily producing 5s. per 8lbs. Prime Down Lambs moved off freely at full rates of currency. Otherwise, the Lamb trade was in a sluggish state, on former terms. Calves were in moderate supply and good request, at full quotations. We were seasonably well supplied with Pigs, in which very little business was transacted, on former terms.

Per 8lbs. to sink the offal.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Coarse and inferior Beasts	3 8	3 10	Prime coarse woolled Sheep . . .	4 4	4 6
Second quality do.	4 0	4 4	Prime South Down		
Prime large Oxen	4 6	4 8	Sheep	4 8	5 0
Prime Scots, &c. .	4 10	5 0	Large coarse Calves	4 2	4 10
Coarse and inferior Sheep	3 6	3 8	Prime small do. .	5 0	5 4
Second quality do.	3 10	4 2	Large Hogs . . .	3 0	4 2
			Neat small Porkers	4 4	4 8

Lambs 5s. 2d. to 5s. 8d.

Suckling Calves, 22s. to 29s.; and quarter-old store Pigs, 21s. to 27s. each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, MONDAY, May 29.—Since our last report these markets have been very moderately supplied with each kind of meat, especially with beef. The general demand has ruled firm as follows:—

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior Beef	3	4	3	6	Small Pork	4	6	4	10
Middling do.	3	8	3	10	Inferior Mutton	3	8	3	10
Prime large do.	4	0	4	2	Middling do.	4	0	4	4
Do. small do.	4	2	4	4	Prime do.	4	6	4	8
Large Pork	3	6	4	4	Veal	3	10	5	2

Lambs, 5s. to 6s. 6d.

MARK LANE, LONDON, Monday, May 29.

We had very little English wheat offering this morning, but the supplies of foreign (the largest proportion from the Black Sea and Mediterranean) and of flour from the United States were large. The trade was generally very quiet this morning, and prices of wheat 1s. to 2s. per qr. lower than on Monday last. Flour slow sale, though offered 1s. per barrel under last Monday's prices. Barley, beans, and peas nominally unaltered. The supply of foreign oats being good, with some quantity of Irish, the demand was limited, at prices 6d to 1s. per qr. under that of Monday last. The current prices as under.

BRITISH.	s.	s.
Wheat—		
Essex and Kent, Red	68	to 80
Ditto White	74	84
Linc., Norfolk, & Yorkshire Red.	74	84
Northumb. & Scotch	74	84
Rye	48	50
Barley malting (new)	38	40
Distilling	35	36
Malt (pale	60	70
Beans, Mazagan.	40	54
Ticks	40	42
Harrow	42	54
Pigeon	52	56
Peas, White	50	52
Grey	40	42
Maple	40	42
Boilers	50	52
Tares (English)	40	52
Foreign	40	52
Oats (English feed)	28	30
Flour, town made, per Sack, of 280 lbs.	56	68
Linseed, English	58	60
Baltic	60	62
Black Sea	62	64
Hempseed	34	40
Canaryseed	52	56
Cloverseed per cwt. of 112lbs. English	48	52
German	50	60
French	40	48
American	40	42
Linseed Cakes	£13 10	to £14
Rape Cake	£5 10	to £6 per ton
Rapeseed	£32	to £36 per last

FOREIGN.	s.	d.
Wheat—		
Dantzig	82	to 88
Konigsberg, Red	76	84
Pomeranian, Red	78	82
Rostock	78	82
Danish & Holstein	74	78
East Friesland	72	74
Petersburg	68	74
Riga and Archangel	54	56
Polish Odessa	66	72
Marianopoli.	72	76
Taganrog	60	62
Egyptian	46	48
American (U.S.)	76	85
Barley Pomeranian	35	36
Konigsberg	32	34
Danish	35	37
East Friesland.	32	34
Egyptian	27	28
Odessa	27	28
Beans—		
Horse	42	46
Pigeon	46	48
Egyptian	44	46
Peas, White	48	50
Oats—		
Dutch	27	31
Jahde	26	31
Danish	26	29
Danish yellow feed	29	32
Swedish	28	30
Petersburg	30	32
Flour, per bar. of 196 lbs.		
New York	36	42
Spanish per sack	56	60
Carraway Seed	32	34

TALLOW, London, Monday, May 29.—The amount of business doing in our market is very limited, and prices are still drooping. P.Y.C. on the spot is quoted at 60s. 3d. to 60s 6d. per cwt. For forward delivery, next to nothing doing. Rough fat, 3s. 3d. per 8lbs.

Particulars of Tallow.

	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Stock	25,709	36,533	41,834	24,383	36,225
Price of Y.C.	36s.9d.to 37s. 0d.	37s.9d to 38s. 0d.	37s.0d.to 00s. 0d.	47s.6d.to 00s. 0d.	60s.3d to 60s. 6d.
Delivery last week	1,229	723	789	792	961
Ditto from 1st June	93,560	90,645	103,071	102,041	93,027
Arrival last week	2,342	282	789	1,240	1,211
Ditto from 1st June	93,200	101,554	108,371	85,796	105,937
Price of Town	38s. 0d.	38s. 6d.	38s. 9d.	49s. 3d.	61s. 0d.

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, May 27.—Forced fruits continue plentiful, and vegetables are improving in quantity. The best new grapes still fetch 10s. per lb. Cherries realise from 2s. to 8s. per lb. Apples are nearly over for this season; varieties for cooking fetch from 6s. to 10s. per bushel, and those for dessert from 5s. to 7s. per half seive. Cucumbers vary from 3d. to 1s. each. New potatoes, from Spain, Sicily, and Cornwall are plentiful, at from 20s. to 24s. per cwt.; old ones still keep dear. Asparagus continues to come in at from 3s. to 5s. per hundred. Carrots and turnips are cheaper. Good broccoli is very scarce. Some good French cauliflowers have made their appearance. Among salad vegetables are radishes at from 1d. to 2d. per bunch, cos lettuces at 3d. to 6d. each, cabbage do. at 1d. to 1½d. each. There are also excellent carrots, globe artichokes, and peas from France; likewise tomatoes at from 9s. to 12s. a dozen. Cut flowers consist of carnations, azaleas, cyclamens, hyacinths, heaths, tulips, and roses.

COAL, Monday.—An advance on the quotations of last day. Stewart's, 19s.; Hetton's, 19s.; Tees, 18s. 9d.; Russell's, 18s; South Kelloe, 17s. 6d.; Wylam, 18s. 6d.; Hartley's, 20s.; Tanfield, 18s.—Fresh arrivals. 43.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, May 29.—Since our last the weather has been stormy, with heavy rains, but upon the whole very favourable to vegetation. The demand for Irish butter last week was altogether of a retail character, and prices 4s. to 6s. lower, with a tendency to a further decline. Limerick, 90s. to 92s.; Cork, thirds 90s. to 92s., fourths 84s. to 86s., fifths 76s. to 78s. Foreign was most in request, and for some kinds the turn dearer, but still much below the rates for Irish. Friesland, 96s.; Keil, 94s. to 98s.; Zwolli, 86s. to 88s.; Holland, 80s. to 84s.; Leer, 78s. to 82s.; French, 72s. to 76s.; Bosch, 72s. to 74s. Of bacon, Irish singed sides were in request at 1s. to 2s. advance. American sides were also more saleable, and a shade higher in value. Middles steady. Hams and lard as last reported.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

	s.	s.		s.	s.
Friesland per cwt.	94	to 96	Cheshire (new) per cwt.	66	to 80
Kiel	94	98	Cheddar	68	80
Dorset	100	104	Double Gloucester	60	70
Carlow	—	—	Single do	60	70
Waterford	—	—	York Hams (new)	76	84
Cork (new)	84	94	Westmoreland, do	72	82
Limerick (old)	—	—	Irish do	66	76
Sligo	—	—	Wiltshire Bacon (green)	66	68
Fresh, per doz.	11s. 0d.	13s. 0d.	Waterford	65	67

SEEDS, Monday.—The trade for seeds of all descriptions remains without variation. We have to report a falling off in the demand for all kinds of Linseed. In some instances the quotations have a downward tendency. Canary is steady. In other seeds very little is doing. Cakes move off steadily on former terms.

BREAD.—The prices of Wheaten Bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 11d.; and Household ditto, 8½d, to 9½d. per 4lbs. loaf

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, May 29.—The supplies of old potatoes on sale in these markets are limited; very high rates are demanded for them, but so little business is doing, that the quotations are almost nominal. New English are selling at from 21s. to 25s. per cwt.; but the supply is small. Very few new foreign have yet appeared.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, May 29.—The general accounts from the plantations continue unfavourable, and our market, in consequence, has exhibited much animation, and the recent advance in prices is fully maintained. The supply of Hops on offer is limited, and fine samples very scarce.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of Wool into London last week were 7,316 bales: of which 1,747 were from Port Phillip, 1,630 South Australian, 1,566 Cape, 2,133 Van Diemen's Land, and the rest German and Belgian. The public sales are now drawing to a close, and during the present week there has been a fair attendance of buyers, several having come up from the country. This has contributed to greater briskness in the biddings, which, throughout the sales, have been tolerably even; there is, however, no advance to be quoted. Since our last report there has been a moderate inquiry for short-wools at previous quotations. All other kinds have met a very dull inquiry, and where sales have taken place, lower rates have been submitted to by the holders.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
South Down Hoggets	1	0½	—	1	1½
Half-bred Ditto	1	0	—	1	1
Ewes clothing	1	0½	—	1	1½
Kent Fleeces	1	0½	—	1	2½
Combing Skins	0	11	—	1	0½
Flannel Wool	0	10½	—	1	3
Blanket Wool	0	7	—	1	1
Leicester Fleeces	0	11	—	1	1

HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS, Saturday, May 27.

Market Hides, 56 to 64 lbs.	0	2½	to 0	3	per lb
Ditto 64 72 lbs.	0	3	0	0	„
Ditto 72 80 lbs.	0	3	0	3½	„
Ditto 80 88 lbs.	0	3½	0	3¾	„
Ditto 88 94 lbs.	0	3¾	0	4	„
Horse Hides	6	6	0	0	each.
Calf Skins, light	2	0	3	0	„
Ditto, full	5	6	0	0	„
Kents	7	0	8	0	„
Downs	5	0	6	3	„
Lambs	2	0	3	0	„
Shearlings	1	6	1	7	„

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